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Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, April 16-17, 1998

British Lockerbie families seek Arab League help to push for trial

CAIRO (AFP) — Relatives of British victims of the Lockerbie bombing sought help from the Arab League on Wednesday to push for an urgent and fair trial for the two Libyan suspects.

"We feel that the Arab League has shown itself to be interested in the same thing as we are, namely truth and justice over Lockerbie," said Jim Swire, spokesman for the victims' families.

"We, as a group of U.K. relatives, are not interested in politics. We believe that the truth can best be arrived at through a fair criminal court being set up to try the accused," he told reporters after meeting Arab

League chief Esmat Abdul Meguid.

Mr. Swire lost his daughter in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people were killed.

The U.N. Security Council imposed a ban on flights and arms deals with Libya in 1992 to press it to hand over two nationals suspected of involvement in the bombing for trial in Scotland or the United States.

The Arab League along with the Organisation for African Unity backs a Libyan request for the suspects to be tried under Scottish law at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The court in February declared itself competent to hear the case and the League called for the sanctions against Libya to be lifted pending its judgement.

Scottish law professor Robert Black, also visiting with Swire, has proposed a hearing in a neutral country under Scottish law before an international panel of judges rather than a jury.

The idea of a neutral hearing has divided the victim's families — representatives of the families of the 35 British victims have said they are ready to accept the Libyan plan, but those of the 189 U.S. victims still insist the two Libyans

must face a U.S. or Scottish trial.

Mr. Swire said British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook had told representatives of the British families at a meeting on April 8 that the government was considering some "diplomatic initiatives."

"I have no idea what is in the mind of the British government... We were not presented with a plan of action but we were told that no avenue has been barred," Mr. Swire said.

"The British government told us that they will consider options for getting rid of the deadlock, but it didn't appear to us to have a coherent plan in order to do that," he added.

Palestinian National Authority arrests Hamas student leaders

GAZA CITY (AP) — Palestinian police detained four Islamic University students who organised a rally critical of the Palestinian National Authority, a Hamas official said Wednesday.

The four are leaders of the youth movement of the militant Islamist group Hamas, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Police confirmed that the students had been detained, but said they could not give further details while they were being questioned.

Dozens of Hamas activists, including several senior leaders, have been arrested in the

West Bank and Gaza Strip since the March 29 death of Mohiyedine Sharif, the chief bomb maker for Hamas.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has said Sharif was killed by an associate in a fight over money and position. Hamas has disputed the findings and accused Israel and the PNA of complicity in Sharif's death.

The students detained Tuesday night include Iman Taha, head of Islamic University's student council.

Also Wednesday, about 400 Palestinians held a march to launch a campaign for the release of Palestinian prisoners

in Israeli jails.

The marchers, who carried Palestinian flags and pictures of prisoners, included mothers and other relatives of the prisoners. "Bibi, release our sons," some shouted, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The campaign hopes to gather 1 million signatures by May 14 — the 50th anniversary of the founding of Israel according to the western calendar — and to send the signatures to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

U.S. President Bill Clinton and other world leaders, asking them to put pressure on Israel to release the prisoners.

Israeli army challenges acquittal of Lebanese guerrilla suspect

LOD (AFP) — The Israeli army prosecutor lodged an appeal Wednesday against the acquittal by a military court of a Lebanese man accused of involvement in attacks on Israel from south Lebanon.

A military appeals court in Lod was hearing the appeal Wednesday, a military spokesman said.

Ali Ahmad Benjak, 21, was arrested in 1994 in Lebanon two years ago for alleged membership in the Shiite militia Hizbollah and for firing Katyusha rockets on Israel during widespread fighting in April 1996.

The military tribunal acquitted him on Monday, citing reasonable doubt about the charges against him.

Israeli press reports said the judges suspected that a confession by the defendant submitted by investigators may have been forged.

The tribunal ordered Mr. Benjak freed and returned to Lebanon within 48 hours but his release was held up by the prosecutor's appeal.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah leads guerrilla efforts to expel Israel from the "security zone" it occupies in south Lebanon to protect its northern communities from cross-border attacks.



PETITION FOR PRISONER RELEASE: A Palestinian policeman in Gaza City Wednesday signs his name to a petition demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. A rally in Gaza City's Palestine Square kicked off the effort to garner one million signatures to the petition, which organisers hope to send to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan (AFP photo)

British U.N. troops barred from Cyprus resort after tourist attack

AYIA NAPA (R) — The U.N. force in Cyprus has banned its British members from a resort on the island after allegations that one of them attacked a tourist, a spokesman said on Wednesday.

The force commander decided yesterday that Ayia Napa is out of bounds for the British battalion serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus.

U.N. spokesman Waldemar Rokoszewski told Reuters.

Military police are questioning a British soldier after allegations that he attacked British tourist Jeremy Caprio, 35, from Wiltshire in Cheshire, blinding him in one eye and breaking his nose, in the southeastern resort of Ayia Napa.

In 1994, the British bases on Cyprus banned visits to Ayia Napa after the arrest of three soldiers for the brutal death of

Danish tour guide Louise Jensen, 23. The soldiers are serving life sentences for manslaughter at Nicosia central prison.

Similar restrictions were imposed last year when British tourists were attacked by off-duty soldiers, one of whom was fined \$1,420 for assault. Some 3,500 soldiers are stationed on the British bases.

Mr. Caprio, a computer technician, said Tuesday's attack by a group of assailants was unprovoked.

"I was trying to keep three of them off of me. A friend of mine said there were at least four or five," said Mr. Caprio, talking to reporters from his hospital bed in Ayia Napa.

"Once I got hit I can remember very little. There was a boot coming into my face... the next thing I know I woke up here," he said.

Doctors say it is unlikely that Mr. Caprio will be able to see with his right eye again.

"I am still hoping that when I go back to England they can do something... if they can't I've still got another one," he said, adding that he had been to Cyprus at least 10 times and the incident would not put him off coming again.

"I am not too happy about the soldiers being here. I know Cypriot friends who own bars and they are not too happy about it either," he said.

Britain contributes almost 400 troops to the 1,265-member U.N. peacekeeping force, deployed to police the so-called "green line" separating the divided island's Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

The British contingent in the U.N. force has previously been free of any controversy over the behaviour of its members.

U.S. envoy Miller due back in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AFP) — Thomas Miller, the U.S. State Department coordinator on Cyprus, is due to visit the divided island within the next week for talks with leaders of both communities, a U.S. embassy spokesman said Wednesday.

Mr. Miller, who was last here earlier this month, will visit "at the end of this week or early next week," the official said, adding that details of his schedule would not be available until Thursday.

The Turkish-Cypriot news agency TAK said Mr. Miller would arrive in Cyprus at the weekend and hold talks on

Monday with Rauf Denktaş, leader of the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state on the north of the Mediterranean island.

Mr. Miller's trip comes ahead of the arrival next month of U.S. presidential envoy for Cyprus Richard Holbrooke in a bid to find a solution to the 24-year division of the island.

It will be Mr. Holbrooke's third visit to the island since U.S. President Bill Clinton named him as special Cypriot envoy in July 1997.

Mr. Holbrooke warned as he wrapped up his last visit

here 10 days ago that the United States would reconsider its role in helping solve the Cyprus issue if his mission in May failed to achieve any progress.

Talks on the future of the island have been at an impasse largely over the European Union's decision to open membership talks with the internationally recognised Greek-Cypriot government.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkish troops occupied the north in 1974 in response to a coup in Nicosia aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

Senior Japanese official to visit Iran

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura is to visit Iran to meet Iranian President Mohammad Khatami after a trip to Thailand this weekend, ministry officials said Wednesday.

Mr. Komura would travel to Tehran after staying in Bangkok from Saturday to Monday for an international meeting to discuss elections in Cambodia due in July and a regional U.N. ministerial gathering, the official said.

It was not clear whether he would travel directly from Thailand to Iran, however, and an exact date for the visit had yet to be set, the foreign ministry official said.

Iran's ambassador to Japan, Manouchehr Motaki met Mr. Komura earlier in the day and said he hoped the two countries would improve ties during his visit to Tehran, the official said.

Japan resumed high-level talks with Iran last November after a seven-month suspension due to a court ruling that implicated Iranian leaders in the 1992 murder of four Kurds.

Mysterious beast sparks panic in Egypt after mauling 13

CAIRO (AFP) — A mysterious beast believed to be half-wolf has sparked panic in a town in Egypt's northern Delta region after mauling a dozen residents, several of them children.

Dubbed "Salwa" or she-wolf, the animal appeared in the streets of Zagazig on Tuesday, biting and injuring 13 men, women and children before fleeing. Al Akhbar newspaper reported on Wednesday. Police gave chase but without success.

Witnesses quoted by the press say the beast is bigger than a dog, with pale brown fur, large fangs, a long snout and a wolf's tail.

During late 1996 and early last year, a similar beast was blamed for a series of attacks in Cairo and southern Egypt which killed at least four people and injured dozens of others before it suddenly disappeared.

Famine threatens government-held district in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A district in war-torn southern Sudan's Al Buhayrat state is threatened with famine, governor Nicanora Mager was quoted Wednesday as saying.

Nicanora Mager warned of "the existence of a famine threat due to an acute shortage in food and medicine" in Aliah district, in the state's Yirol province, press reports said.

"The people in Aliah district are in urgent need of food, medicine and clothing," Mr. Mager said, adding that his state government had managed to provide 100,000 kilograms of sorghum.

The papers said First Vice President Ali Osman Mohammad Taha had ordered an immediate shipment of aid to Aliah.

The district is under government control, while other parts of Al Buhayrat state,

Peace talks to resume in April in Nairobi

NAIROBI (AFP) — Peace negotiations between the Khartoum government and southern Sudanese rebels will resume in Nairobi during the last week of April, the Kenyan foreign ministry said Wednesday. The talks, which broke off in November, are aimed at ending 14 years of civil war blamed for at least one million deaths including many by disease and famine in Africa's largest country.

In early November delegations representing the military government of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and the Sudan People's Liberation Army met for 10 days in the Kenyan capital under the auspices of the regional Inter-Governmental Authority on Development. The two sides were meeting then for the first time in three years.

including its capital Rumbek, are held by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Referring to the 15-year-old uprising in which the mainly Christian and animist SPLA has been fighting domination by the Muslim, Arabised north, Mager was quoted as saying: "The state government is determined to liberate

the state from the rebellion."

Meanwhile, army spokesman Abdul Rahman Siral Khetim was quoted as saying that "heavy casualties" had been inflicted on the rebels in "extensive mopping-up operations conducted in the past two days by government troops in the Bahr Al Ghazal region" — which includes Al Buhayrat.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

Thursday Programmes

14:10 Cartoon — The Adventures of Dinky Di's

14:30 Doc. — The Animal Park

15:00 French Programmes

17:00 NBA

18:00 Drama — The Banned Bridge

19:00 Le Journal

19:15 Science Magazine — A

Tomes Crochus

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Comedy — Big Brother

20:00 Drama — The Great

Romances

20:30 Drama — Dr. Quinn, the

Medicine Woman

21:10 The Oprah Winfrey Show

22:00 News in English

22:30 Feature film — "Promise

the Moon"

23:59 Comedy — Never The

Taiwan

00:30 End of T.X.

Friday Programmes

14:10 Cartoon — The Adventures

of Teddy Ruxpin

14:30 Wishbone

15:00 French Programmes

17:00 He Shoots, He Scores

17:30 Doc. — Blue Water

Dreaming

18:10 Tarzan

19:00 Le Journal

19:15 Educational Programme

— Allo La Terra

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Comedy — "The

Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"

20:00 Documentary — Life on

the Internet

20:30 The Elton Show

21:10 Drama — "Baby's"

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

22:00 News in English
22:30 Mini-series: "Maria
Chapdelaine (Pt. II)"
23:10 Comedy — The Nanny
23:30 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:41 Fajr
06:02 Sunrise
12:35 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:09 Maghreb
20:30 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweetfield, Tel. 5920740

Assemblies of God Church Tel.

4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4623666

Anglican Church Tel.

4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox

Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church

Tel. 865897

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-

ter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la

Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel.

4646138

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department

of Meteorology

The effect of the heat wave

will last until Thursday after-

noon whereby it will be hot and

dry, clouds appearing at

different altitudes, and winds

southeasterly moderate to

active. On Friday, tempera-

tures will drop, humidity rise,

and winds westerly moderate.

In Aqaba, it will be hot, dry,

and dusty, winds southerly

moderate and seas rough later

becoming northerly moderate

and seas calm.

Amman 21/32

Aqaba 35, Aqaba 40

Humidity readings: Amman

23 per cent, Aqaba 21 per

cent.

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 35, Aqaba 40

Humidity readings: Amman

23 per cent, Aqaba 21 per

cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

121 Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 5680100

Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Co. 4636381

RJ Flight Information 44-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

AMMAN:

Dr. Issam Asmar 890504

Dr. Osama Al Hussein 847289

Dr. Nidal As'ad 751872

Dr. Abdul Rami Mustafa 744885

Firas pharmacy 5661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 4637055

Naiorouk pharmacy 4623672

Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

Yacoub pharmacy 4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Tar'ameh 250080

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shahin 995170

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111

Civil Defence Department 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Res-

cue 4630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade 4671101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Dept. 4630321

Price Complaints 5605800

Water & Sewage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Com-

plaints 787111

Telephone Information (directo-

ry assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101

Jordan Television 773111

Cabinet approves \$1.15m EU grant for medical equipment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has approved a nearly \$1.15 million grant from the European Union to Jordan to help finance the purchase of medical equipment for the Palestinian refugee camps in Jerash and Baqa and for the Shalaleh district of Aqaba.

During a regular session on Tuesday, the Cabinet also approved the formation of a committee to prepare for the Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee meeting in Tunis. The preparatory committee will convene in Tunis on April 19-20. Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ham Mulki will head the team to the preparatory meeting.

The Jordanian side to the higher committee meeting, which will be co-chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his Tunisian counterpart, groups the ministers of foreign affairs, culture and youth, municipal and rural affairs and the environment, industry, trade and supply, and administrative development.

The Council of Ministers formed a delegation to take part in the fourth conference on bio-diversity, which will be held in Slovakia in early May. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreihan will lead the delegation.

The Cabinet formed a delegation led by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Horani to take part in the Arab energy meeting, to be held in Damascus on May 10 under the auspices of the Arab League and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries to discuss coordination among Arab countries in energy-related fields.

At the session, the Council formed a delegation led by the director general of the Civil Aviation Authority to attend a meeting by the Arab Air Transport Federation in Tunis later this month. A delegation, led by Ibrahim Badran, director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, was assembled to attend a meeting on refugees to be held in Canada from April 19-21.

The Council of Ministers formed a delegation led by Waleed Sadi to attend a diplomatic conference in Rome on the formation of an international criminal court. The meeting will take place from June 15-17.



PRINCESS RAHMA ATTENDS GRADUATION CEREMONY: HRH Princess Rahma on Wednesday attends the graduation ceremony of the participants in training programmes organised by the Jordanian Women's Union/Balqa branch. The ceremony took place at St. George's Society in Salt (Petra photo)

Opposition urges PNA to stop crackdown on Hamas leaders

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A senior Islamist leader Wednesday urged the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to stop cracking down on the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, following the assassination of a top group member in the West Bank.

Hamam Sa'id, deputy secretary general of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party, also warned the PNA against "any attempt to liquidate Hamas' military arm, Izzeddine Qasbi."

Dr. Sa'id, who was speaking at a press conference by the coalition of 12 opposition parties, was commenting on the dispute between Hamas and the PNA which erupted following the killing of Hamas' top bomb maker, Moheiddine Sharif, on March 29.

The PNA said the killing of Sharif was carried out by Hamas members and launched a crack down against the group's activists in the West

Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Hamas rejected the charges and called upon the PNA to release all Hamas detainees.

"The wide-ranging Islamic movement will not remain silent on the liquidation of Hamas and considers this matter a red line that should not be crossed," Dr. Sa'id, also a former deputy, said.

"Any case that could lead to an internal feud among the Palestinian people will not only have an impact on the Palestinians but also the outside world," he added.

"Everyone that helps put an end to the jihad [struggle] of the Palestinian people will be held accountable for his actions," the IAF spokesman said.

The secretary general of the Jordan People's Democratic Party (HASHD), Salim Nahhas, said Jordanian parties were ready to mediate between the PNA and Hamas.

"What concerns us most is putting an end to the tension between the two sides and stopping a possible confrontation," Mr. Nahhas said.

"We are ready to mediate between the two sides if asked by one of the two concerned parties," Mr. Nahhas added.

A member of the coalition, Deputy Mohammad Oran, criticised the PNA crackdown against Hamas, which he said "is nothing but a concession to Israeli and American pressures."

"We warn the PNA against continuing its campaign to liquidate the nationalist... forces in an attempt to put out the flame of resistance among the Palestinian people," Dr. Oran added.

"We call for establishing an independent investigation committee that would look for those responsible for the assassination of the martyr Sharif," the deputy, who represents the Arab Land Party, said.

The opposition parties sent appeals to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid to help defuse the tension between the two sides.

New Indian ambassador presents credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jawad Anani on Wednesday received the credentials of the new Indian ambassador to Jordan, Sha-

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ran Singh.

Education minister asks committee to prepare for next school year

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister

of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan on Wednesday presided over a meeting of the ministry's planning committee. During the meeting, Dr. Hamdan stressed the need for taking all required preparations for the coming 1998-1999 school year.

Israel to construct new passenger terminal at Aqaba international airport

By Alla A. Toukan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israel will build a new terminal for passengers bound for Eilat at Jordan's Aqaba International Airport, currently used by both states as stipulated under the 1994 peace treaty, officials said Wednesday.

The new passenger terminal, to be built on the Israeli side of the border, will be financed by Israel to facilitate extra traffic at the Aqaba airport, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Capt. Jasser Ziyad, told the Jordan Times.

The new plan envisages

using the Aqaba runway for all incoming flights, the terminal currently in use on the Jordanian side of the border for passengers bound for the Kingdom, and the new terminal, four kilometres away from the runway, for passengers going to the Jewish state.

Israeli Embassy spokesperson Ro'ey Gilad said Israel expects half a million passengers annually to pass through the new terminal, which is expected to be finished in one year.

The joint use of Aqaba International Airport is a pilot project launched last September, initially for a trial period of

four months.

Capt. Ziyad said Jordan has requested that the trial period be extended.

Currently the Aqaba airport receives three Israeli carrier flights from Europe a week.

Mr. Gilad said Israel's \$10 million investment was testimony to the success of the pilot project.

The project ran into difficulties last month when Jordan complained that Israel was not sticking to its side of the bargain by not upping the three weekly flights to 15-35 as stipulated in the September agreement.

In reply, Israel reiterated its

commitment to the project and vowed to increase the number of flights, although a specific number was never set.

Describing the new plan as an "interim solution and a step towards building the joint peace airport," Capt. Ziyad said he expected that the Aqaba airport will witness an upsurge in the number of inbound flights after Israel's proposed terminal is completed.

Capt. Ziyad added that Israel will have sole jurisdiction over the terminal as well as its own security, since it will be on Israeli soil.

ICRC, Red Crescent open orientation meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Wednesday opened a two-day meeting in Amman to orient JNRCS workers on international humanitarian law.

A total of 70 JNRCS workers in the Kingdom along with representatives of a number of schools are taking part in the meeting, which was opened by JNRCS President Mohammad Hadid.

In his opening address, Dr. Hadid reviewed JNRCS achievements, noting in particular the recent expansion of the Red Crescent Hospital, the creation of a vocational training centre that offers free training to up to 400 women annually, and first aid training for members of the local community.

He said the JNRCS will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year under Royal patronage, and several veteran society workers will be honoured.

The head of the ICRC delegation in Jordan, Jacques de Maio, reviewed scopes of cooperation between the ICRC and the JNRCS, noting that special emphasis is being placed on the role which the youth can play in voluntary and humanitarian fields.

Prosecution asks court to uphold man's death sentence

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prosecutor Zuhair Ariyat has asked the Criminal Court to uphold the death sentence handed down to a 52-year-old man, convicted last year for the 1989 murder of his wife, following a higher court's request to reconsider the original sentence.

Ahmad Ali was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court on Dec. 8, 1997, after he was found guilty of the premeditated murder of his wife.

Mr. Ali told interrogators that he plotted to kill his wife after seeing a man leave his house late at night in 1989 upon returning home from a party.

"Ahmad claimed that his wife, the mother of nine,

man leaving his house late at night."

However, the Criminal Court then rejected his pleas of cleansing his honour and sentenced him to death.

But last month, the Court of Cassation returned the case to the Criminal Court asking it to "reconsider the defendant's accusations and determine if he should benefit from a reduction in penalty."

The defendant was arrested by police in August after a man discovered Ms. Hassan's remains in the cave.

Mr. Ali told interrogators that he plotted to kill his wife after seeing a man leave his house late at night in 1989 upon returning home from a party.

"Ahmad claimed that his wife, the mother of nine,

denied having relations with anyone, but he did not believe her and plotted to kill her," according to court papers.

On the evening of the incident, it maintained, the defendant lured his wife to a deserted cave, shot her twice in the back and buried her in the cave, the court said.

The following morning, the court added, the defendant asked his children about his wife's whereabouts, then went and placed a missing person ad in the newspaper.

Two months later, the defendant married another woman, the court stated.

The court tribunal, headed by Judge Jihad Khasawneh and including Justices Yassin Abdullah and Ahmad Khanb, postponed the trial to April 28 to issue a verdict.

ILO official, ministry review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The assistant director general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Ibrahim Sous, conferred in Amman Wednesday with Minister of Labour Mohammad Farhan and reviewed the organisation's activities in the Arab World and ILO-Jordanian cooperation.

Ministry Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh and a number of ministry officials presented ideas on the prospects of boosting ILO-Jordanian cooperation, particularly in the fields of training, labour dispute settlement

and labour-related inspection operations.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of the ILO providing Jordan with funding needed for developing a ministry system on collecting labour-related information, ensuring occupational health and educating the labour force.

Dr. Sous said the ILO has no funds to offer the Kingdom but added that the organisation was ready to cooperate with Jordan in conducting labour-related feasibility studies and assisting the country in securing funding

from world organisations.

He expressed hope that Jordan would benefit more from the ILO's plans for the year ending in 2001.

Dr. Sous later met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jawad Anani and reviewed ILO-Jordanian cooperation in labour-related fields.

Also Wednesday, Dr. Sous met with the executive director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Sima Bahous, with whom he reviewed the NHF's achievements and plans.

Muslim Brotherhood continues to expand popular appeal despite setbacks

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood has expanded its base and tightened its grip over civil society institutions despite internal feuds and its decision to boycott last year's general elections, political analysts and government officials said.

In union and university elections held over the last three months, the Islamists and their allies reasserted their total control over three professional associations, including the influential 38,000-strong Jordan Engineers Association (JEA), and dominated student councils at five universities.

"This is a clear indication that the Brotherhood remains the number one and most organised political force and that it is also gaining more popular support," said a senior government official, who requested anonymity.

Rising poverty and unemployment, coupled with the inability of leftist and pan-Arabist parties to grow and the failure of the 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty to deliver many of the promised economic dividends, have worked for the country's oldest movement, independent politicians said.

Ongoing traditional rifts between the group's "hawks" and "doves" do not seem to have hindered the Brotherhood's political expansion.

The Islamists won all council seats, the chair and deputy posts in the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association, the JEA and the Jordan Nurses Association.

Islamists are also tipped to win a comfortable majority in

the upcoming elections of the Pharmacists Association, traditionally a leftist stronghold. In an unexpected development, Islamists and their allies won 75 per cent of the student council seats at Mu'ta University.

The introduction of a one-person, one-vote electoral system at the University of Jordan only partially loosened the hold of the Islamist bloc, which won 51 of the 80 student council seats at the state-run university.

Islamist candidates also secured a majority of council seats in recent elections at Zarqa Private University, Yarmouk University, and Balqa Applied Sciences University.

Analysts said the Brotherhood's popularity increased after the movement refined their political outlook, bringing it more in line with the demands and sentiments of the masses.

The diminishing influence of leftist and nationalist parties, traditional rivals of the Islamists among the opposition, and the government's perceived inflexible and tough policies also played to their advantage.

In addition, the Brotherhood's 53 years of political experience have enabled it to build a network of health, educational and social welfare institutions — parallel to and at times a substitute for state apparatus.

Compared to other parties, fund-raising has never been a major problem, with money coming in from rich supporters, including prominent merchants and from the international Brotherhood movement.

The group was registered in

Jordan as a charitable organisation in 1945, a status that allowed it to escape the 1957-1992 ban on all political parties.

While the Muslim Brothers continued to operate publicly, many of their leftist colleagues went underground or languished for years in jails.

In a country where many people are traditionally conservative Muslims, they were able to penetrate the various

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social echelons.

"They are at every corner and in every school and shop," the government official told the Jordan Times.

The Brotherhood has shown more pragmatism over the last four years, developing its political platform and language to boost its appeal to followers ranging from rich to poor and from illiterate to intellectual.

"Today, the movement is more sophisticated and stronger than ever," said Ibrahim Gharaibeh, an expert on Islamic movements and editor-in-chief of the Islamic monthly, Al Ummah.

A comparison between conditions set by the Brotherhood to join the government of former Prime Minister Mudar Badran (1989-1991) — their only participation in government — and reasons behind their historic boycott of the Nov. 4 elections, clearly reflected a change in priorities.

A 14-point list submitted to Mr. Badran at the height of their parliamentary representation in 1989 reflected what Mr. Gharaibeh defined as "a romantic vision of politics."

They included demands for

enforcing Sharia (Islamic law), including amending all legislation contradicting it, restoring personal funds deposited abroad in order to finance development projects and banning alcohol sales to Muslims.

However, they only managed to ban alcohol on Royal Jordanian flights to and from Arab capitals, temporarily segregate sexes at some of the ministries they ran, and set up a Sharia college at Yarmouk University.

These actions alarmed many Jordanians, long accustomed to liberal policies and social tolerance.

"But last year, when they announced the boycott of the general elections, they confronted the government with real political concerns such as human rights, civic and political freedoms, and constitutional reforms," Mr. Gharaibeh stressed.

Though the Brotherhood fiercely opposed the 1994 peace treaty with Israel, the movement's leader, Abdul Majeed Thneibat, steered clear from including the abrogation of the treaty among the conditions to participate in the 1997 elections.

Instead, they demanded a halt to "normalisation with the Zionist enemy," an indication of the party's increased pragmatism.

The failure of leftist and nationalist groups to expand their power base helped provide the Islamist movement with new pockets of supporters.

"The left failed to renew its leadership and re-package its political programme in order to recruit more youths," said social democrat Jamil Nimri. "And when a political force

loses the support of the youth, it loses almost everything," added Mr. Nimri, a columnist at Al Arab Al Yawm newspaper.

Islamic movements also appear to have gained from the widely perceived restrictions on civil and public freedoms, which culminated in riots in the southern poverty-stricken city of Ma'an in February.

The Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), have been vocal critics of the policies of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali since his government was sworn in last March.

They strongly rejected last

May's controversial amendments to the press law, criticised at home and abroad for "placing freedom of expression under siege."

They have also blasted the "one-person, one-vote" electoral system used in the 1993 and 1997 general elections on grounds that it encouraged tribalism at the expense of political parties.

Two weeks ago, they accused the government of "bluffing" when it published a long-awaited draft elections law that retained most of the old articles.

Their campaign against the government's controversial privatisation drive, which they argue is tailored to bene-

fit "only a handful of the government's friends," not the large majority of Jordanians, has won wide support.

"People know where we stand," said a Muslim Brotherhood leader who requested anonymity. "We are against restrictions on the press and public liberties and against the one-person, one-vote system," he added. "We are also against corruption, favouritism and nepotism and the way in which privatisation is being carried out."

"The more the government goes against the people, the more the people will turn to us. You could say the government is helping us enlarge the movement."

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- * Excellent Computer skills are a must.
- * Fluency in English, with excellent writing abilities.
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Kindly note that applicants who do not meet the above qualifications will not be considered.

Applications along with a current Curriculum Vitae, and a passport size photo should be mailed to the following address before April 25, 1998.

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Relationship Manager Opportunities
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what's going on

FILMS

- * Spanish children's film "Palace" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- * "Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest" at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- * The cycle "The Miracle of Life" from the poems of Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, composed by Agnes Bashir, will be sung by Tania Tamara Nasser at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Friday, April 17 (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.).

POETRY RECITAL

- * Poetry recital (in English) of Ebel Adnan poems by May Muzaffar at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * "Mount Nebo, New Archaeological Excavations 1967-1997" by Professor Michele Piccirilli on Thursday at the Friends of Archaeology Society at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Private collection of Jan Kassay entitled "Flowers Series" at the Jordan River Designs Project showroom, Jabal Amman (Tel. 4613081/2), until April 22.
- * Photographic exhibition entitled "A tour in the Dead Sea" by Jausen and Savignac at the French Cultural Centre, until April 30.

Communists dig heels in over Kiriyeenko nomination as premier

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's Communists dug their heels in Wednesday over the nomination of Sergei Kiriyenko as premier, insisting they would oppose the candidate despite the "defection" of one of their most influential leaders.

Senior Communist deputy Viktor Ilyukhin warned that the party would maintain its opposition to President Boris Yeltsin's protégé a day after state Duma speaker Gennady Seleznyov broke party ranks and came out in support of Mr. Kiriyenko.

"Seleznyov has expressed his point of view," said Mr. Ilyukhin, a hardline Communist. "I can say that Friday the Communist group will vote against the candidacy of Mr. Kiriyenko," he added, according to ITAR-TASS.

The lower house Duma is due to consider Mr. Kiriyenko's candidacy in a second vote Friday after rejecting Mr. Yeltsin's young lieutenant by 186 votes against to 143 in favour last Friday.

The Communist Party and its allies, who command 221 seats in the 450-seat state Duma lower house, have persisted in their opposition to Mr. Kiriyenko, arguing that at 35 and with barely a year in the government he is too young and inexperienced to become prime minister.

Mr. Seleznyov, a moderate though influential member of the party, said Tuesday however that the Duma had to approve Mr. Kiriyenko's nomination to avert the spectre of dissolution.

The speaker added that he expected the fresh-faced

reformer to prevail Friday by winning at least 235 votes, a view to which most political analysts now subscribe.

"Seleznyov seems so confident he even gave the number of votes," said Dmitry Trenin, political analyst at the Carnegie Endowment think-tank. "He is much closer to the main stream of the Communist Party" than Mr. Ilyukhin.

"I think Kiriyenko will get just enough votes." But the head of the pro-government Our Home Is Russia parliamentary bloc, Alexander Shokhin, was less confident, predicting a maximum of 200 votes for Mr. Kiriyenko Friday, well short of the 226 simple majority he needs.

Mr. Shokhin added however, that Mr. Yeltsin's candidate would prevail in the decisive third round.

Mr. Kiriyenko's task could be a little harder Friday as a result of a voting amendment pushed through by the Communists in the Duma Wednesday which gives the parliament the right to hold open ballots.

Last Friday's ballot was secret, but if deputies muster a majority in favour of an open vote this week, legislators will have to show how they cast their ballots.

"Every voter must know for whom his deputy votes," said Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, whose party has moved for an open vote to enforce party unity

in the crucial ballot and prevent vote-buying.

Mr. Yeltsin, who withdrew to his countryside retreat Wednesday to prepare for his upcoming trip to Japan, indicated earlier this week that he would reward deputies who adopted a "constructive attitude" over the confirmation vote.

In a further sign that deputies still intend to put up some sort of fight over the nomination, deputies voted overwhelmingly in favour of appealing to the Constitutional Court for a ruling on whether Mr. Yeltsin acted illegally in reappointing Mr. Kiriyenko.

Under the constitution, the president can dissolve the Duma if it votes on three separate occasions against his choice for prime minister.

Communist deputies argue the wording of the constitution implies Mr. Yeltsin must choose different nominees on each separate vote, but the top Russian court has already said it will not intervene in the political stand-off.

The latest furious tussle between president and parliament was touched off when Mr. Yeltsin upset the delicate power balance in Moscow by abruptly sacking his government on March 23 and plucking Mr. Kiriyenko from semi-obscurity to draw up a new cabinet and economic programme.

The Russian president has vowed to stick by his candidate, even if it means dissolving the parliament, while the Communists have pledged to oppose him, threatening Russia's most serious political showdown since the parliamentary uprising of October 1993.

Russian deputies appeal to court over Kiriyeenko renomination

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Russian parliament turned Wednesday to the Constitutional Court to contest President Boris Yeltsin's renomination of Sergei Kiriyenko to the post of prime minister.

Deputies voted by 305 votes in favour to just two against to lodge an appeal with Russia's top court, arguing that according to the constitution the president is not entitled to propose the same candidate twice.

But the court has already said it will not intervene in the stand-off between Mr. Yeltsin and his political foes in the state Duma lower house, which is poised for a climax Friday when deputies vote for a second time on Mr. Kiriyenko's nomination.

According to the constitution, the president is entitled to dissolve parliament if it votes on three separate occasions against his "candidates" for prime minister.

Communist deputies have argued that the wording implies that Mr. Yeltsin must choose different nominees on each separate vote.

Mr. Yeltsin for his part has vowed to stick with Mr. Kiriyenko and threatened to dissolve parliament if it does not accept his young lieutenant.

Japan's Red Cross attacks N. Korean secrecy on homecoming visits

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Red Cross called on North Korea Wednesday to help remove the secrecy surrounding homecoming visits by Japanese women married to Koreans and all but isolated in the diaphanous Stalinist state.

Tadateru Konoe, vice president of the Japanese Red Cross Society, issued the appeal a day after returning from a four-day trip to the famine-hit country.

The Red Cross official discussed relief aid and other humanitarian issues with his North Korean counterpart in Pyongyang and toured areas hit by floods in recent years.

Two groups of Japanese-born women in North Korea, numbering 15 and 12, respectively, were allowed by Pyongyang to visit relatives in Japan last November and February.

The decision to allow the visits was widely seen as being linked to Pyongyang's bid to woo aid from Tokyo.

But Mr. Konoe told a news conference that the visiting women tended to shun the media in Japan and only a chosen few made "somewhat stereotyped answers" to questions from reporters.

"It chills the atmosphere," he said. "The meaning of our (home visit) project would rather be deeper if we can hear a bit more from each one of them about what they really have in their minds."

"This way, we can give impetus to progress in the

project," he said.

"We need to gain an understanding on this point from people concerned," said Mr. Konoe, who met Ri Chong-Ho, vice president of the North Korean Red Cross Society, and other officials in Pyongyang.

"That is what I have said over there." Mr. Konoe was the highest Japanese Red Cross official to visit North Korea since 1956 when the then vice president of the organisation went to discuss the repatriation of Japanese left in the country at the end of World War II.

He said that a third batch of around 15 Japanese-born wives in North Korea was expected to come home in mid-May if necessary procedures, including a bilateral agreement on the group's composition, can be completed smoothly.

About 1,800 Japanese women moved to North Korea with their Korean husbands under a Red Cross repatriation programme between 1959 and 1984 as Kim Il-Sung's Stalinist state lived with promises of a workers' paradise.

Many more Japanese were reported to have changed their nationality before moving to the north of the Korean Peninsula, which was divided into Communist and capitalist halves after colonial Japanese rule from 1910 to 1945.

Most of the Japanese-born spouses remained unheard from by their relatives at home.

But Pyongyang approved

an unprecedented homecoming visit by a select group of these women when Tokyo decided to give \$27 million in food aid to the North.

Japan had been reluctant to help North Korea because of the suspected abduction of at least 10 Japanese nationals by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s.

At that time, members of the group declined to comment when they were asked about what had happened to other spouses.

The second homecoming group received somewhat colder treatment. All of their families in Japan declined to be named publicly and some of the wives were even shunned by their relatives.

North Korea's official media have published letters of thanks from members of the two homecoming groups to North Korea's supreme leader Kim Jong-Il, the eldest son of the late Kim Il-Sung.

The letters praised the younger Mr. Kim for his benevolence and extolled the virtues of socialism.

Mr. Konoe said he had suggested to North Koreans that the alleged abduction cases might be settled "at humanitarian level" if they could not be handled at "political level."

"This is the biggest question weighing over the public sentiment in Japan," he said, adding that Tokyo-Pyongyang relations would not improve greatly if it remained unresolved.

6,300 children poisoned by iodine supplements in China

BEIJING (AFP) — Some 6,300 children in western China have been poisoned by iodine supplements, which were issued after an urgent ban on the suspect medication, the Guangming Daily reported Wednesday.

The children, all attending schools in Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu province,

fell ill when the tablets were issued to 70,000 school children across the city.

By April 11, some 109 of the affected children had been hospitalised with nausea, vomiting, abdominal pains, dizziness and nose bleeds.

In one school, all 470

pupils who took the supplements got sick, the newspaper said.

The iodine supplements were handed out despite an urgent education ministry notice on April 6 forbidding further issue of the supplements following a series of poisonings across the nation.

Similar cases have also been reported in Anhui, Henan and Sichuan provinces.

HIV Australian faces world first charges of endangering unborn child

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — An Australian man with HIV faced what are believed to be the world's first charges Wednesday of endangering the life of an unborn child by unprotected sex.

Christopher Dirckze, a truck-off doctor, appeared in Melbourne Magistrates Court on six counts of reckless conduct endangering life.

It is charged that Mr. Dirckze, 41, had sexual intercourse with his pregnant wife knowing he had the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Three charges relate to the alleged reckless endangering of his wife, and the others to the reckless endangering of his unborn child at conception and in the uterus.

Mr. Dirckze was struck off the medical register last year after the Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria state found he had unprotected sex with two patients and abused his position to borrow large sums of money from patients.

The board found him "guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect."

Magistrate Barbara Cotterill granted bail and adjourned the case for a commitment mention on June 10.

As a dissident playwright, Mr. Havel led the Velvet Revolution that ended Communist rule in what was then Czechoslovakia in 1989.

He went on to be elected Czech president in 1993, and was reelected for a second term in January of this year.

Mr. Havel's wife Dagmar, who was staying at her husband's bedside, said he had



Katharine Graham, chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Washington Post, is congratulated by Post Executive Editor Leonard Downie Jr. (right) and Post employees after winning a Pulitzer Prize for biography for her memoir "Personal History" (Reuters photo)

New York Times staff wins Pulitzer for series on Mexican corruption

NEW YORK (AFP) — The New York Times won the Pulitzer prize for foreign reporting for stories on Mexican corruption, while the public service award went to a North Dakota daily for reporting on the Grand Forks floods, Columbia University announced Tuesday.

The Grand Forks Herald won the prize, the most prestigious in U.S. journalism, for stories "that helped hold its community together in the wake of flooding, a blizzard and fire that devastated much of the city, including the newspaper plant itself."

New York Times reporters won the international reporting prize for a series that "profiled the corrosive effects of drug corruption in Mexico."

Mike McAlary of the New York Daily News won the commentary award for "his coverage of the brutalisation of a Haitian immigrant by

police officers at a Brooklyn stationhouse."

The Los Angeles Times staff won the breaking news award for its coverage of a failed bank robbery and shoot-out with police in north Hollywood.

Gary Cohn and Will Englund of the Baltimore Sun won the Pulitzer for investigative reporting for their stories on the international ship-dismantling industry, including the labour and environmental implications of discarded ships.

The 22 prizes for journalism, literature and music come with monetary awards of \$5,000. The independent Pulitzer prize board decides on the winners.

In addition to international reporting, the New York Times won two other Pulitzers, bringing to 77 the number that the daily has garnered.

Linda Greenhouse, who covers the U.S. supreme

court, won for beat reporting for her "consistently illuminating coverage" of the institution, while critic Michiko Kakutani won for "her passionate, intelligent writing on books and contemporary literature."

The spot news photography prize went to Martha Rial of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette "for her life-affirming portraits of survivors of the conflicts in Rwanda and Burundi."

The Pulitzer prize for literature went to Philip Roth for his novel "American Pastoral" while Charles Wright won the poetry prize for "Black Zodiac."

Paula Vogel won the drama prize for "how I learned to drive," a play about incest.

The Pulitzer prize for music went to Aaron Jay Kernis for his "String quartet 2 (musica instrumentalis)" and composer George Gershwin received a special mention honouring the centenary of his birth.

Czech parliament approves NATO membership

PRAGUE (AFP) — The Chamber of Deputies voted unanimously Wednesday to let the Czech Republic join NATO.

The vote was 154 in favour and 38 against in the 200-seat assembly.

The chamber's speaker,

Milos Zeman, went along with the government pro-membership drive even though his social democratic CSSD party had until now been pushing for a referendum.

Still, he said debate in the chamber had been rushed.

NATO has agreed to take in the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary as the first members from the former Warsaw pact.

Membership negotiations are supposed to wrap up in time for the alliance's 50th anniversary in 1999.

Vaclav Havel not yet completely out of danger

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AFP) — Czech President Vaclav Havel is awake and doing well after emergency bowel surgery Tuesday in Austria, "but he is not yet completely out of danger," doctors told AFP Wednesday.

"He is doing well and has been talking and reading, but it will be about a week before we can be sure that there are no complications," said Professor Ernst Bodner, head of the medical team that operated on Mr. Havel.

Chief anaesthetist Norbert Mutz said Mr. Havel's condition was stabilised by late Tuesday evening, and that he had been taken off an artificial respirator at 6 a.m.

"He's in surprisingly good condition after such a serious operation," Mr. Mutz said after speaking with Mr. Havel for 45 minutes.

Mr. Havel remained in intensive care on the second floor of the university clinic in the centre of the Tyrolean capital.

As a dissident playwright, Mr. Havel led the Velvet Revolution that ended Communist rule in what was then Czechoslovakia in 1989.

He went on to be elected Czech president in 1993, and was reelected for a second term in January of this year.

Mr. Havel's wife Dagmar, who was staying at her husband's bedside, said he had

called for her in the early hours Wednesday.

"He could not speak because he had a tube in his mouth," she said, "but he wrote things down on bits of paper. They were very private messages."

"He's feeling fine and has no pain," she told the press conference.

She added that Mr. Havel had received a fax wishing him well from U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and was expected to speak during the day with Austrian President Thomas Klestil.

Professor Bodner told reporters that Mr. Havel's condition was excellent. "At the moment, the serious intestine infection appears to be under control. He no longer has an infection."

But, he cautioned, "the illness is such that serious complications are possible for several days after the operation. We could again find ourselves in a difficult situation."

Such complications could include a reinfection either in the abdominal cavity or in the area of the surgical scar, which was about 20 centimetres long.

Professor Bodner said he had removed about 30 centimetres of Mr. Havel's lower intestine.

Mr. Havel's personal doctor, Ilya Kotik, who had rushed to Innsbruck from

Prague, also sounded a note of caution. "At the moment, we can confirm there is reason for optimism but we must wait for a few days to be sure," he said.

Mr. Havel's wife gave details of how the illness developed over the Easter weekend, saying he had felt unwell Sunday and developed a fever and severe stomach pain Monday.

She gave him aspirin and paracetamol to try to lower his temperature but Tuesday called an ambulance to take him to a small clinic at Reutte, near their holiday home, where blood tests were carried out and a perforated intestine diagnosed.

He was flown to Innsbruck by helicopter Tuesday afternoon, she said.

A further medical bulletin was scheduled for 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.

Doctors planned another press conference Thursday at 10:00 a.m., officials said.

Dr. Miroslav Cerkas said Tuesday that Mr. Havel was likely to face "several difficult weeks" with the "risk of complications." The 61-year-old president had been in a dangerous condition prior to the operation, he added.

Mr. Havel had been found to be suffering from peritonitis, a condition in which the contents of the intestine leak out into the abdominal cavity.

China orders Russia's most advanced anti-ship missiles

TAIPEI (AFP) — China has ordered an unspecified number of deadly super-sonic anti-ship missiles from Russia, reports here said Wednesday.

Russia has already started producing the Moskit missiles, known in the West as SS-N-22 Sunburns, for the Chinese navy, the China Times reported.

The value of the deal was not clear, the paper said.

Taiwan's navy would not comment on the report.

The weapons are far more advanced than any missiles currently used by Western navies and have a range of up to 160 kilometres, the report said.

They will be installed on the four Sovremenny (Modern) class destroyers China has ordered from Russia, the report said, adding China would be the first country outside Russia to acquire the Sunburns.

Taiwan has already announced plans to buy four sophisticated U.S.-built Aegis destroyers in reaction to Beijing's sustained naval build-up.

Professor Chung Chien of the National Tsing Hua University warned of the threat the missiles could pose to the Taiwanese navy.

"Once targeted by such a missile, the navy will be allowed only half the (normal) reaction time to shoot it down," Prof. Chung said.

It was reported that Taiwan's Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology had successfully test fired the Hsiung Feng III, the island's first super-sonic ship-to-ship missile.

China has threatened to invade Taiwan, which it regards as a renegade province, should it declare formal independence.

Croatia seeks extradition of WWII camp commandant

ZAGREB (AFP) — The Zagreb government has asked Argentina to extradite a Croat who ran a World War II concentration camp in Croatia, a foreign ministry official said Wednesday.

The suspect, Dinko Sakic, has lived in Argentina since 1947.

"Croatia has officially requested the extradition of Mr. Sakic, and the process is under way. We are obviously awaiting the response of the Argentine government," Deputy Foreign Minister Ivo Sanader told reporters.

Mr. Sanader was speaking after talks with a visiting Israeli foreign ministry official, Eytan Bentsur, who said Israel "fully supports" the Croatian government's extradition request.

Tuesday, a Croatian embassy official in Buenos Aires said Argentina had promised to extradite Mr. Sakic if he was brought out of hiding.

Mr. Sakic, 76, disappeared last week after Argentine television broadcast a report in which he admitted that he headed a World War II concentration camp in Croatia.

Botha's trial under way as talks fail

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The trial of P.W. Botha, former South African president, commenced Wednesday morning in the former South African parliament building in Cape Town.

Botha had decided to go ahead with the trial, despite the fact that he had been offered a deal to go into exile.

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Botha's trial under way as talks fail

GEORGE, South Africa (AFP) — The trial of P.W. Botha commenced in earnest Wednesday morning after the former South African president broke off talks with truth commission officials aimed at halting the trial.

Truth commission chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu told reporters outside the magistrate's court that lawyers had come "within a trice" of striking a deal but that Mr. Botha had decided at the last minute he wanted the trial to go ahead.

Desmond Tutu said he had met with Mr. Botha Wednesday morning in an attempt to persuade the 82-year-old apartheid leader to appear at a special in-camera hearing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in the southern city of George.

"I had a chat with him," Desmond Tutu said. "He seemed adamant he is ready to speak only to me" rather than appear before the full TRC. The act governing the TRC, however, did not allow for this.

"Fundamentally for Mr. Botha, it stuck in his gut to appear before the commission," Desmond Tutu said. "It is his view the commission has humiliated his people."

Mr. Botha is being charged for ignoring a subpoena of the commission to appear at a public hearing in December.

Later, during a five-minute break in his trial, a defiant Mr. Botha told reporters he would never appear before the commission.

He said the impression that he was running away from the commission was false. He was prepared to meet Desmond Tutu and President Nelson Mandela to discuss matters, he added.

Shortly before being moved away from the press by one of his lawyers, Mr. Botha fired a defiant parting shot. "Even if they destroy me they cannot destroy my soul and my convictions."

The truth panel, which is probing human rights abuses during the apartheid years, wants to question Mr. Botha about the role of his State Security Council during the 1980s, South Africa's most turbulent years.

The TRC offered as a compromise a closed-door meeting where Mr. Botha would not be exposed to the public glare.

But talks which began a week ago and extended into the first day of the trial Tuesday and appeared to continue until 11:10 a.m. (0910 GMT) Wednesday failed to break the impasse and, on instruction of Attorney-General Frank Kahn, the trial before magistrate Victor Lugaj finally got going.

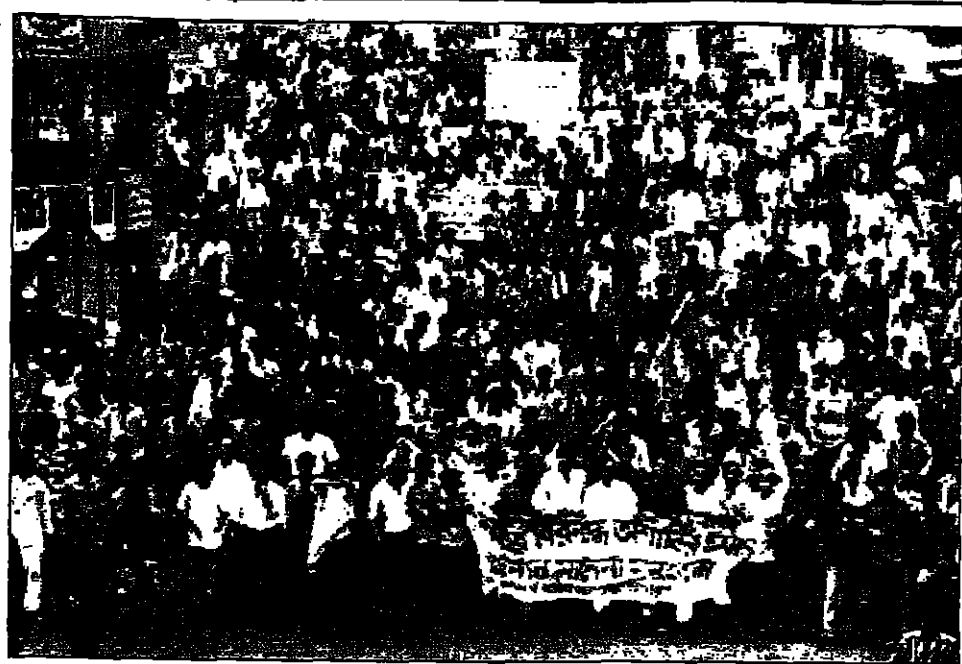
Desmond Tutu said the TRC never wanted to prosecute Mr. Botha, but that "he left us with very little option."

The retired Anglican archbishop said the TRC's doors were still open to Mr. Botha and would remain open "for keeps."

"This body is committed to reconciliation, and it has to be taken seriously," Desmond Tutu said, adding: "We don't want our country to be destroyed by a legacy of bitterness, hatred and anger."

The first witness to be called was Paul van Zyl, the TRC's executive secretary, who was questioned on the proceedings of the TRC and why the truth panel felt Mr. Botha needed to supply it with information on the years of his rule.

Van Zyl said Mr. Botha had been implicated in human rights abuses, including the bombing of a trade union's headquarters in Johannesburg, by some of his former colleagues and the TRC felt it was imperative the former president be questioned on the allegations.



Supporters of the ruling Bangladesh Awami League stage a street march in strike-bound Dhaka. At least two people were killed and over 50 injured in clashes between strike supporters and opponents, police said (Reuters photo)

Irish police rule out release of accused cop killers

DUBLIN (AFP) — Irish police Wednesday angrily dismissed suggestions that IRA prisoners charged with the 1996 murder of a detective will be released as a result of the Northern Ireland peace deal.

"I am absolutely outraged at even the suggestion of it," said Michael Kirby, vice president of the Garda (police) Representative Body.

"I can't even comprehend that people who would have murdered one of our colleagues in such a cold-blooded fashion might not even stand trial."

Detective Jerry McCabe was shot dead during a raid in Adare, Co Limerick in the south-west of the country in June, 1996.

Four men are in jail awaiting trial on capital murder charges which carry a maximum 40 year sentence on conviction.

Mr. Kirby's comments follow the early release by the Irish government of nine IRA prisoners, a move which will help Sinn Fein leaders sell the deal to the membership when the party's two-day conference is held at the weekend.

Mr. Kirby said the due process of law must be allowed to take its course and the four accused of McCabe's murder should be made to pay the ultimate price.

He added that IRA prisoners were released during the first cease-fire and then violence resumed. "We know that some of the people that were released before were engaged in acts of terrorism. We don't know if that will be repeated," he said.

French report huge Ecstasy haul

CALAIS, France (AFP) — Customs officials at the French end of the Channel tunnel seized nearly 360,000 tablets of the designer drug Ecstasy, the economics ministry announced Wednesday.

The seizure netted more than double the amount of Ecstasy seized by French authorities in all of 1997.

Ten kilos of cocaine were also seized, the ministry said.

The drugs, with an estimated street value of more than 10 million francs (\$1.65 million), were seized from a truck registered in Belgium which was about to be loaded on a train for Britain, customs officials said.

The drugs, believed to have originated in either Belgium or the Netherlands, were hidden behind canned goods in the truck.

The Belgian driver was arrested, but the March 25 seizure was kept secret initially to enable French and Belgian police to investigate, officials said.

Calais, the main port for access to Britain via the Channel tunnel or ferries, acts as a kind of funnel for drugs destined for Britain, the officials said.

Prosecutors said the joint trial would demonstrate a "common criminal undertaking" in the planning, organisation and execution of the genocide, in which between 500,000 and 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in 1994.

The charge sheet listed 29 co-defendants including 11 who are currently detained by the ICT and who have already pleaded not guilty to charges of genocide and crimes against humanity during the bloodbath in Rwanda.

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Two dead, 20 injured in clash during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (AFP) — Sporadic clashes Wednesday left at least two people dead and 20 injured in a half-day general strike called by a Bangladesh opposition alliance to protest a landmark peace treaty, official sources said.

A young man died after the clashes in an old district of Dhaka, sources from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital said after the body was taken there.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party said he was one of its supporters. It was unclear if he was hit by a bullet or run over by a speeding vehicle.

In southwestern Khulna city, an 18-year-old man, believed to be an anti-strike activist, also died after being fatally wounded in clashes between rival groups during the nationwide stoppage, local police chief Akramuz Zaman said.

Several others received minor injuries in stone-throwing and crude bomb blasts before police intervened, he added.

BNP also claimed another supporter had died in the northeastern Shunamganj district, but no independent confirmation was immediately available.

In Dhaka, some 20 people were injured in clashes between missile and stone-throwing strikers and police, who used tear gas and batons to break up the protest, witnesses said.

They said more than 15 strikers were arrested from different areas of the capital.

Several thousand police patrolled streets and guarded sensitive points in Dhaka and the southeastern port city of Chittagong where the protest passed off largely peaceful.

Senior government leader S.A. Malek described the strike as "most unfortunate" and said the peace treaty with the hill tribals to end a 24-year insurgency could be discussed again in the parliament.

"The government did not say this is final and cannot be amended," said Mr. Malek, political advisor to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

Earlier in Dhaka, schools and shops had shut for the strike, but life slowly resumed as normal when it ended at noon (0600 GMT).

It had been delayed from Monday for the high-level visit by a U.S. delegation led by Bill Richardson, Washington's envoy to the United Nations.

During his visit Mr. Richardson criticised such actions and said all differences should be settled in the parliament.

The strike is the fourth on the issue called by the seven-party alliance headed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's BNP.

Ms. Zia called for the stoppage to be a success to "foil government move to give legal cover to the black accord."

Bills to enforce the treaty were tabled in parliament Wednesday amid a BNP walkout and were sent to "special committee," which will scrutinise them and report back within one week.

The government has said opposition members would be able to propose amendments to the bill and the government would consider their views.

The treaty signed in December between the government and tribal rebels ended a 24-year insurgency in the south-eastern hill region bordering India and Myanmar.

But tension remains between tribesmen and Bengali-speaking settlers mainly over land disputes. Five people were killed recently in the hills by unknown assailants and troops are currently patrolling the districts.

The BNP and its allies, including the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami, have described the pact as "unconstitutional," which the government has repeatedly denied and called for a parliamentary debate to prove their point.

Three tribal groups have also opposed the treaty, alleging two of their major demands — autonomy and the expulsion of Bengali-speaking settlers in the hills — were not met.

About 2,000 armed rebels surrendered their weapons under the deal welcomed by the international community, including the United States and Britain.

Agent leaves paycheque behind

MADRID (AFP) — A Spanish agent left his paycheque in an apartment from which he had been spying on the headquarters of a Basque separatist party, a newspaper said Wednesday.

A number of operatives from Spain's military intelligence agency, known as CESID, had set up shop with electronic surveillance equipment in a flat right above the offices of the Herri Batasuna party in the town of Vitoria, El Pais said.

Herri Batasuna is the political wing of the extremist group ETA, which is seeking independence for the Basque country.

Sensing that their cover had been blown, the agents left the flat in a hurry on March 31, taking with them two large bags full of equipment and documents.

But they left some behind, and among this was one of the agent's paycheques, El Pais said.

It and other material was found in a search carried out April 1 on orders from justice officials. The absent-minded agent will be called to testify in the case.

Defence Minister Eduardo Serra has ordered a probe of CESID. Faced with so much incriminating evidence, when he testifies before parliament next week Mr. Serra will admit that CESID had in fact been spying on Herri Batasuna, El Pais said.

Kosovo Serbs, Montenegrins reported fleeing homes

PRISTINA, Serbia (R) — Tensions increased in Serbia's restive Kosovo province Wednesday amid reports that Serbs were leaving their homes in a volatile border area and Albanian separatists were digging in.

"Almost all Serb and Montenegrin families have abandoned their homes in 18 villages in the Decani municipality and taken shelter in a hotel near Decani," a statement issued by the Serbian resistance movement said.

The organisation represents Serbs in the Kosovo province where ethnic Albanians outnumber them nine to one and want to secede.

It said the families had decided to flee their homes because of "the appearance of armed and uniformed members of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army, who are roaming the outskirts of Decani villages."

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"Bunkers built from sand bags have been noticed in some villages and it is said that Albanians are telling their Serbian neighbours to leave," it added.

The Belgrade newspaper Dnevni Telegraf said the KLA was digging

trenches and taking Serbs into custody for interrogation.

The KLA, which has assumed responsibility for attacks on at least 60 Serb policemen and Albanians loyal to Belgrade, has been branded a terrorist organisation by Washington and Belgrade.

The independent Belgrade-based news agency Beta also reported that the LDK leadership had described the situation in Kosovo as "very difficult and precarious."

The Decani area is just 13 km from the border with Albania.

It straddles smuggling routes which, according to Western intelligence sources, have been used to bring in as many as 500,000 long-barrelled assault weapons from Albania after riots and raids on army barracks there last year.

The poor province has been rocked by a wave of violence this year in which more than 100 people have been killed.

The international community has stepped up pressure on both sides to urgently open a dialogue but Albanian leaders have so far refused to do so saying the Serbs, who

have sent 10 delegations to Kosovo, have not met international conditions.

Following a major police crackdown on separatist strongholds in the Drenica area last month in which at least 80 people have been killed, the international community has threatened fresh sanctions against Belgrade.

In the meantime, the KLA has killed six Albanians loyal to Belgrade and wounded another last week.

It has also staged a hand grenade attack on a police station in the provincial capital Pristina, keeping tensions high.

Albanian separatists also detained and later expelled two Serbian doctors who arrived in the Decani area earlier this year to inoculate Albanian children against polio as part of an international health programme.

The doctors were told they had no business in "liberated Albanian territory."

Diplomats fear a fresh outbreak of violence ahead of a big powers' Contact Group meeting due later this month to discuss sanctions against Belgrade.

Rwanda war crimes prosecutors appeal rejection of joint trial

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AFP) — Prosecutors at the U.N. war crimes tribunal for Rwanda have appealed against the rejection of a bid to hold a joint trial for 29 genocide suspects, the Hirondelle press agency said Wednesday.

The appeal was lodged April 6 in The Hague, headquarters of the international war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, the Swiss-based independent agency reported.

On April 2, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICT), which is based in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha, rejected the prosecution's initial request for a joint trial.

Judge Tazazzal, Hossain Khan of Bangladesh said one single judge could not accept the proposed collective charge sheet, because some of those indicted were already cited by the ICT in other cases.

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Senior U.S. official says Jordan must do more to lure foreign direct investments

By Ghaila Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior U.S. official Tuesday praised Jordan's commitment towards privatisation, but said more needed to be done to lure foreign direct investments into the country.

In a Worldnet dialogue on U.S. assistance to Jordan, Undersecretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, Stuart Eizenstat, said Jordan's privatisation efforts will also encourage U.S. investments in the Kingdom.

"There is no question that U.S. companies will take advantage of this as the environment becomes more and more positive for foreign investment," Mr. Eizenstat added.

Jordan's comprehensive privatisation strategy, which picked up momentum two years ago, is aimed at increasing the role of the private sector and reducing the government's direct participation in the productive sectors in

a bid to target government efforts towards combating poverty and unemployment.

Jordan and the U.S. — through their recently negotiated bilateral investment treaty — hope to enhance their business cooperation through encouraging investments in both countries.

"The treaty, [which will be presented to the U.S. Congress for ratification this year,] will encourage U.S. investments in Jordan by assuring Americans that their investments are protected against expropriation," said Mr. Eizenstat.

"The Commerce Department, the State Department and USAID are all working to encourage direct foreign investment through trade missions, discussions and seminars in the United States and through being real cheerleaders for Jordan, because we believe very much in what your country is doing and that is a tremendously good place for investment, where people will do very well," Mr. Eizenstat said.

Jordan has recently taken ambitious steps to improve its investment climate especially after Al Hassan Industrial Estate in the northern city of Irbid was officially designated as a Qualifying Industrial Zone (QIZ).

Under the QIZ agreement, signed between Jordan and Israel in November, products manufactured at the zone have free access to U.S. markets without reciprocal benefits.

When asked what affect a possible future free trade agreement with the U.S. would have on the QIZ status, Mr. Eizenstat said Jordan would need to make a number of changes to its trade regime pertaining to the elimination of all tariff and non-tariff barriers before negotiating such an agreement with the U.S.

"This is obviously a goal to which we can aspire, and Jordan is certainly putting in economic reforms which, over time, may place it in that situation," he said.

According to officials, the QIZ has so far succeeded in attracting foreign investors who were impressed by the quota free treatment at the zone.

Kelly Kammerer, counselor and acting assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), told the audience that the U.S. has extended financial and technical assistance aimed at supporting Jordan's economy and the privatisation process.

In 1998, the U.S. contributed a total of \$271 million to Jordan, \$140 million of which, were allocated by USAID to increase economic opportunities for Jordanians and to support water as well as health and family planning programmes.

"These three develop-

ment challenges are closely linked as rapid population growth increases demand for water and requires the creation of new employment and income opportunities," he added.

The U.S. has also forgiven \$700 million in Jordanian debt to Washington.

U.S. assistance levels have increased by 1,800 per cent, from \$7.2 million in 1996 to \$126 million in 1997, said Mr. Kammerer.

"Our assistance levels now make Jordan the fifth largest recipient of foreign assistance of any country in the world," the undersecretary said.

According to Mr. Kammerer, "Jordan must prepare for a day when donor assistance will end and move from an emphasis on aid to private sector trade and investment."

While praising Jordan's efforts targeted towards jump-starting its economy and upgrading its industries to international standards, Mr. Eizenstat emphasised that the Kingdom has to exert additional efforts to accelerate the implementation of internationally acceptable Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) laws.

"We have serious concerns about the intellectual property rights regime in Jordan. Your patent, copyright and trademark legislation is not at world standards and is inadequate," he said.

Jordan's 16 drug manufacturers, whose exports topped \$140 million last year, have been facing pressure from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) which this week recommended that Jordan be moved from the "Watch" list to the "Priority Watch" list.

This move, it said, was "based on evidence that the situation has worsened despite intense diplomatic pressure from major trading partners."

PhRMA's request coincided with a visit by a Jordanian delegation to Washington to discuss

patent protection, copyrights and trademark legislation.

Mr. Eizenstat said the negotiations in Washington will influence the question on whether or not Jordan will be placed on a special 301 "Priority Watch" list, expected to be released on April 30.

"No decision has been made at this point. We are hopeful that steps can be taken which will avoid that, but this will depend on what progress is being made in Jordan," he said.

During the wide ranging dialogue, Mr. Eizenstat also touched upon the Open Skies civil aviation agreement the U.S. and Jordan negotiated last year.

He said the agreement is expected to increase air travel and tourism between the two countries and encourage more investments.

Local firms win JD0.9m tender to expand QIZ

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Wednesday awarded a consortium of Jordanian firms a JD891,819 tender to expand Al Hassan Industrial City near Irbid on 202 dunams of land.

JIEC Director General Amer Majali, who signed the deal with the firms' general managers, said the tender constitutes the first phase of an expansion plan designed to secure more space for factories at the industrial city to meet the growing demand.

A large number of local, Arab and foreign investors have applied for space in view of the fact that products produced at the industrial city enjoy duty-free access to U.S. markets under the Qualifying Industrial Zone (QIZ) agreement.

The expansion plan aims at creating 2,400 jobs at 60 new plants in the zone, Mr. Majali pointed out.

The formal QIZ designation of Irbid's Al Hassan Industrial City by the U.S. last month is intended to support the peace process by showing some of the much promised economic dividends that many Jordanians are still awaiting.

Jordan and Israeli manufacturers are benefiting from the privilege of exporting freely to U.S. markets.

Unicef

The United Nations Children's Fund, with headquarters in New York and Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa based in Amman, seeks qualified candidates for the following position:

Sr. Admin. Assistant
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Education: First University Degree preferably in Business Administration or related subject.

Skills and Ability: Knowledge & experience with computer applications, management & electronic communications. Ability to draft correspondence with very good writing skills in English and to organise, prioritise and manage the work of the Administrative Unit. Good judgement, initiative and a high sense of responsibility & ability to establish harmonious working relationship in an international and multi-cultural environment.

Languages: Fluency in both Arabic & English required. Knowledge of French an asset.

Experience: Minimum five to seven years of progressive work experience in Administration, particularly related to travel management. Experience in an international organisation or environment desirable.

Please send detailed resume, in English, quoting reference GS/RO 98-05 to:
Asst. Admin./Personnel Officer, UNICEF Regional Office,
P.O. Box 840028, Amman-11184, Jordan.

Applications for this position must be received by April 30, 1998. Acknowledgement will only be sent to short-listed candidates under serious consideration.

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JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SUBSTANT											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 15/04/1998											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW			SHARES	TRANS.	TRADED	PRICE	PRICE			
350.000	251.000	ARAB BANK	14.1	1.16	4	1020	351100	344.00	344.00	-	-01-
2.340	1.660	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8.5	0.00	2	1000	1710	3.74	3.74	-	-01-
2.680	1.650	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.3	7.83	5	6750	12113	1.79	1.80	-	-01-
5.500	4.660	THE HOUSING BK.	16.9	2.70	17	11224	59920	5.32	5.34	-	-02+
4.180	1.750	JOR. MORTG. BANK	8	0.00	2	5550	9990	1.80	1.80	-	-01-
920	590	JOR. GULF BANK	4.1	10.14	22	28950	19976	69	69	-	-01-
4.190	2.800	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	40.5	2.51	1	10000	26600	2.80	2.86	-	-14-
4.920	1.770	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	0.00	6	1147	2700	1.77	1.77	-	-01-
4.740	2.500	ARAB BANKING CO.	21.2	0.00	1	1000	2700	2.79	2.70	-	-09-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 239.24 %CHG: +0.03											
2.400	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.2	11.26	12	66146	485275	55348	2.18	2.22	-04+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 123.18 %CHG: +0.19											
2.240	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.6	4.57	17	8362	18365	2.20	2.19	-	-01-
4.030	1.320	IRBID ELECTRICITY	14.5	4.26	4	594	1392	2.30	2.35	-	-05+
5.500	2.650	HIGHER MINERALS	49.3	0.00	1	1000	451	4.70	4.51	-	-19-
1.550	960	NATL. PORTFOLIO	42.7	0.00	1	100	107	1.08	1.07	-	-01-
9.500	6.700	ALRAI	9.2	6.62	2	93	840	9.15	9.06	-	-09-
1.090	900	SARSA EDUCATION	17.0	0.00	7	5200	554	87	87	-	-01-
1.830	1.460	UNITED CO.	6.5	7.43	19	6550	9588	1.46	1.48	-	-02+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 119.24 %CHG: -0.15											
1.160	960	ATTACHEES	9	0.00	2	4200	4620	1.10	1.10	-	-02-
4.450	2.690	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	17.2	3.79	19	12417	35123	2.92	2.90	-	-02-
4.140	3.050	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	8.5	3.28	8	32177	102894	3.05	3.05	-	-01-
111.160	9.200	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6	8.11	6	2504	27645	10.95	10.96	-	-01+
6.700	4.500	JORDAN TANNING	8.8	7.27	1	250	1375	5.50	5.50	-	-01-
2.210	1.100	INDUSTRIAL CONGR. AGR.	9	0.00	3	500	578	1.20	1.15	-	-05-
5.700	3.460	ARAB PHARM. HMF.	14.7	3.75	25	7600	40668	5.37	5.33	-	-04-
1.530	1.020	JOR. PIPES MANUFCT.	11.1	7.46	2	350	469	1.34	1.34	-	-01-
2.330	1.700	GENERAL HITING	9	4.19	1	300	501	1.75	1.67	-	-08-
1.420	750	BAPTA INDUSTRIES	8	0.00	1	205	205	8.00	8.00	-	-02-
6.750	4.400	DAR ALDAMA DV. INV.	7.1	5.94	16	2220	13024	5.85	5.89	-	-04+
3.420	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.6	8.83	4	750	2120	2.80	2.83	-	-03+
1.570	400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16.6	0.00	9	10000	4990	50	49	-	-01-
1.110	670	ARAB PAPER COV. TRD.	21.7	0.00	10	18332	12836	71	71	-	-01-
620	510	NATIONAL INDUS.	9	0.00	1	500	275	54	55	-	-02+
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.66 %CHG: -0.10											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 169.78 %CHG: -0.02											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 15/04/1998											
N 1.050	910	EXPORT & FIN. BKR. 75*	17.0	0.00	11	13200	8901	91	92	-	-01+
N 1.330	1.010	ISLAND INSURANCE CO	9	0.00	20	18500	21420	1.20	1.15	-	-05-
N 530	340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	20	76000	30405	41	40	-	-01-
N 620	360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	19	46750	18752	41	40	-	-01-
N 1.220	1.000	SPECIALIZED JOR. 75*	78.9	0.00	1	22000	20020	1.16	1.16	-	-
N 2.220	1.050	CENTURY INV. GROUP	9	0.00	1	430000	860000	2.00	2.00	-	-
N 290	120	JOR. INDUS. MATCH-JENCO	9	0.00	13	16700	2171	1.13	1.13	-	-
N 470	240	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	47.2	0.00	20	59000	23780	40	41	-	-01+
N 570	360	NATL. MTL. ENG. RANCO	9	0.00	5	3250	1218	37	38	-	-01+
N 600	310	NATYCAN DISC & MOUTDS	9	0.00	2	600	210	34	34	-	-01+
N 690	380	MIDEST PHARM. 90*	9	0.00	2	1250	650	62	62	-	-
N 730	550	UNION TOBACCO 75*	9	0.00	2	850	1169	1.62	1.63	-	-01+
N 830	490	INDOS. ENG.	13.1	0.00	2	2200	616	28	28	-	-
N 950	550	ADVANCED PHARM. IND.	9	0.00	13	32050	19761	61	62	-	-01+
N 600	370	PEARL SAN. P. CONV.	9	0.00	1	100	40	40	40	-	-
N 740	410	NATL. TOURISM	9	0.00	2	25200	12203	48	50	-	-02+
N 1.000	660	NAT. ALUMINUM. 75*	46.9	0.00	32	29142	12404	70	71	-	-01+
N 1.310	1.000	NUTRIDAR	9	0.00	7	1827	1967	1.05	1.08	-	-03+
N 1.000	750	EXCAL PRINT CO. 75*	12.5	9.24	6	8550	4936	83	82	-	-01-
GRAND TOTAL 198 799746 1050206											

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Con game
- Between one another
- Faucet flaw
- Facility
- More mature
- Santa ... CA
- With 57A, comment by 26A
- Anne de Beauvoir
- Additional conjunctions
- \$10 gold coins
- Inorganic
- Of India: pref.
- Legendary baseball manager
- Educate
- Postcard
- Simian
- Excessive anger
- The March King
- Dancer Verdon
- Wrath
- Letter opener?
- Competed in the Tour de France
- 26A
- affectionately
- Washington bills
- Forward progress
- Ashes Stadium event
- Apple PCs
- After the style of
- See 17A
- Flying: pref.
- Eatery
- First-class
- Flinged fastener
- Musical exercise piece
- Lower digits

DOWN

- Earthquake
- Desert plants
- Gray-faced
- culpa (Sorry 'bout that)
- Showplaces
- Halfway point
- Makes a choice
- O.T. book
- Unfermented beverage
- St. George's monster
- Dice toss
- of Man
- Permission slip
- Abraham's wife
- Forest spa?
- 24 ... homo (Behold the man!)
- Doctrines
- Now ... talking!
- Rubberneck
- Fencing sword
- Make a loan
- Small combo
- British nobleman
- Elderly
- Glen Miller's "Sunrise"
- 45 Appointed
- 46 Sale
- Bumpkins
- Surround
- Supergiant star in Cygnus
- 42 Brag
- Soda can
- 44 Soda can
- 45 Appointed
- 46 Sale
- 47 Southern elm
- 50 Skirt shape
- Director Peter
- 52 Zion National Park state
- 53 Mets stadium
- 54 Rovers
- 55 List of dishes
- 56 Tiny portion
- 57 Station or tedora

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAMMA

MOWNE

REYJES

EVILAB

Answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: MAGIC GNARL SQUALL FLORIAN

Answer: Some of the best eating tips come from here — SIFLON

World Business

A review of news from

National Textile and Company doubles sales

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
US Dollar	1.7965</			

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

National Textile and Plastic Industries Company doubles sales to JD2.8 million

THE NATIONAL Textile and Plastic Industries Company has emerged from the red and posted a small profit at the end of last year after registering over JD2.8 million in sales last year, double the amount posted in 1996. Board Chairman Khalil Ben Khadra told the general assembly that there was an increase in total production last year as the output reached 281 tonnes which represented 91.5 per cent of production capacity. In 1996, the output represented 82 per cent of production capacity.

Mr. Ben Khadra said 43.2 per cent of the sales were in the local market with the remaining 56.8 per cent sold to outside markets. He highlighted the participation of the company in many Jordanian industrial fairs which were held abroad such as those in Ethiopia, Bosnia and Sudan. "The sharp price competition in South East Asian countries has prevented us until now to enter effectively to those markets," Mr. Ben Khadra said.

The chairman indicated that the company was able to reduce its total liabilities by JD43,700 which is double the amount of reduction achieved in 1996. "The largest portion in the decrease was in bank cred-

its — meaning that there is an acceleration in repaying the indebtedness," he explained.

Mr. Ben Khadra expected price stability to continue around reasonable levels and, as such, serve as a base for a more feasible operation. He noted in this regard that the prices of raw materials have declined during the last quarter of 1997 because the raw materials are derived from oil, the prices of which have declined during the same period.

"In addition, a Kuwaiti company started towards the end of last year to produce propylene granules and to sell the product in the market. Due to the larger supply, the price remained relatively low, Mr. Ben Khadra said.

He went on to point out that the continuation of the oil-for-food agreement between Baghdad and the United Nations will open wider opportunity for cooperation with Iraq in terms of the volume of sales. He concluded by stressing that the company aims at diversifying its export markets. "The company has sale contracts with two outside markets and serious negotiations are underway with a third outside market," Mr. Ben Khadra said.

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR FRIDAY
APRIL 17, 1998

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A temper flare-up, no matter how small, could make a negative impression. So bite your tongue. That won't hurt as much as the argument would. It won't be so difficult. All you have to do is listen instead of talking.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Finish up business first thing this morning. You'll start losing interest as the day progresses. That's unusual for you. But, there's something going on now that's changing all that. If you don't have enough excuses to travel already, do it because a faraway friend wants to see you very badly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you're going shopping this afternoon, make a list first. Don't forget things you need for your house. If you've been struggling with a small appliance that's broken, it's hard to realise how much time you spend on chores.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Your workload is so heavy and confusing today that you might be just about ready to quit the whole thing. Don't do that. Get a partner to help. Your next lesson has to do with delegation.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You've been in such a good mood lately, you may have forgotten to do a couple important tasks. Now it's imperative that you get serious. Don't you just hate it when this happens? Don't complain.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) An older person may be stressed today, but you should be in a good mood. Your love life is going well. If you don't have a love life, you're liable to stumble onto one. A person who would be very good for you is not far away.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) It's time to think about changes you want to make to your home. If you get everything planned, you could make a lot of progress over the weekend. Even if you've got company coming over, you can still tackle a big project. That might even be what they're coming for.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) You'll learn the most today by working with an expert. That's your favourite way of acquiring information. It may interfere with your routine, but that's OK. With a little bit of fancy stepping — and Lord knows you're good at that — you'll be able to find the time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you have to take care of practical matters. Where's the money coming from, who gets it first, and how much will be left over? It's important to know how much you have so you can figure out how much you'll need. You may not get the raise yet, but you're moving in that direction.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may wake up confused, but by lunchtime your head should clear. It'll be easy to see what to do next, and it's going to look like fun. You'll be anxious to get started.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You've got about 80 different things to finish, and you've only started 15. Not only do you have to hurry, you need a clear idea of where you're going. Someone you don't like is telling you what to do, and he or she is right.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There are hassles first thing this morning, but conditions get better. By afternoon, you'll be in a good mood. By tonight, you'll be ready to party.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1998

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't lose your temper with a gentle person this morning. He or she will be easily flustered. As the day continues, you'll have more power. That's good, since there's work to be done. Hit it hard. The money will certainly come in handy.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Love could come your way today, although you may not recognise the person as a potential love interest. You may think of him or her as a friend. If you're married, that could be the situation between you and your spouse. Is there something left unspoken, or an idea you've been withholding?

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Things may seem too hard to deal with this morning, but don't worry. The confusion clears up as the day continues. Your mate or partner makes some succinct and appropriate suggestions. It's hard for you to listen when somebody else tells you what to do, but give it a try.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) In order to succeed, try thinking from the point of view of your boss, teacher, parent or whatever other authority figure looms prominent in your life. If you don't, you could be completely blindsided by something this person asks you to do.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Fun, games, romance, travel, adventure, excitement — all of this and more is in store for you, on a Thursday yet! How are you going to make the most of this marvellous advantage? The obvious first step is to get together with the one you love. This could be your sweetheart, mate or a child.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Your home is still in an uproar, but that's OK. It may seem like everything is costing too much. You may have also made a bigger mess than you had anticipated. Not to worry. By tomorrow, conditions will be a little more fun and a little less tense.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Something you find difficult is ridiculously easy for a co-worker. You've been trying to do it the hard way, and you've been resisting. Stop both and you'll find everything getting easier. This won't make you less powerful. Quite the contrary. Master this skill and you'll be awesome.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) There are things going on today that need to stay confidential. That's not a problem for you, but it could be for a co-worker. Make sure this person doesn't know too much. Since you're not quite sure which person it is, you'd better be careful with everything you say.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You're looking good and pushing hard. You're strong and you've got the backing you need. You and another person can seize victory with one last monumental effort. Well, it's not even an effort, actually. It's more like fun. Congratulations, and keep up the good work!

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may experience confusion, but don't worry. It's part of the learning process. As you get further into the programme, every-

thing will make more sense. You'll certainly be proud of yourself for having gone through this mess and emerging triumphant, so don't even think about giving up.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) It's better to put money into the bank than to take money out; it's better to pay bills than to charge new stuff. Remember that if a friend tries to talk you into spending money, True, sometimes you have to spend money to make money, but right now you have to pay off debts to make money.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You're going to have to put up with an older person's ridicule. He or she thinks it's funny. You, however, don't appreciate feeling like the brunt of a joke. Can you lighten up about this? If not, nothing will make this assignment worthwhile. Give it a try. It might not be as hard as it looks.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't lose your temper with a gentle person this morning. He or she will be easily flustered. As the day continues, you'll have more power. That's good, since there's work to be done. Hit it hard. The money will certainly come in handy.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Love could come your way today, although you may not recognise the person as a potential love interest. You may think of him or her as a friend. If you're married, that could be the situation between you and your spouse. Is there something left unspoken, or an idea you've been withholding?

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REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7866	0.6930	1.4908	129.38	1.4383	1778.20	2.0234	6.0250
DE Mark	0.5586	-	0.3298	0.8297	71.96	0.8002	989.84	1.1262	3.3539
GB Sterling	1.6863	3.0284	-	2.5123	217.95	2.4254	2966.88	3.4102	10.1545
CH Franc	0.6708	120.44	0.3976	-	86.72	0.9639	1182.14	135.65	4.0393
JP Yen	0.0077	1.3878	0.4580	1.1615	-	1.1111	13.72	156.28	4.8531
CA Dollar	0.6953	1.2916	0.4225	1.0666	1.11	-	1270.80	1.4551	4.3265
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0107	0.3334	0.0839	1374.95	0.9090	-	11.38	3.3879
NL Guilder	0.4842	88.76	0.2929	73.68	63.91	0.7106	877.69	-	2.9788
FR Franc	0.1680	0.2382	0.0984	24.7477	21.45	0.2387	33.58	33.5800	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6403	0.3049	3.6729	1528.00	3.4165
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2888	0.5317	5.1344	0.4300	5.1804	2155.85	4.8198
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.1247	0.0813	0.98	407.55	0.9109
Bahrain Dinar	2.66	1.8806	5.9463	-	8.88	0.8088	8.73	4054.38	0.0623
Qatar Dinar	0.3747	0.1948	1.0303	1.0303	-	0.0638	1.01	419.88	0.9385
Kuwait Dinar	3.2798	2.3254	12.3008	1.2365	11.94	-	12.66	5013.12	0.9385
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1830	1.0211	1.0208	0.9811	0.0830	-	416.16	0.9302
Lebanese L1000	0.86	0.4839	2.4537	0.2486	2.3816	0.1985	2.4029	-	2.2362
Egyptian	0.2927	0.2075	1.0973	0.1103	1.0565	0.0892	1.0750	447.39	-

Energy			Mid-East Currencies				
Oil	Last	Review	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
Brent	13.09	13.18	SA Riyal	0.2686	0.4791	0.15812	0.39776
W. Texas	16.20	16.14	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.48928	0.16146	0.40616
Bonny	13.09	13.18	KW Dinar	3.2798	5.89275	1.94477	4.89237
Dubai	11.41	11.89	BH Dinar	0.3770	4.76644	1.57307	3.95728
U.L. Gas	152.00	153.00	CY Pound	1.8989	3.4078	1.1242	2.8279

JOD Cross Rates			Libor Fixing				
Currency	Buy	Sell	Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-1-
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Year
GB Sterling	1.1911	1.1971	USD	5.6797	5.7500	5.7891	5.9141
DE Mark	0.3928	0.3946	GBP	7.4375	7.5104	7.5104	7.4844
CH Franc	0.4739	0.4763	JPY	0.6771	0.7604	0.7708	0.8125
FR Franc	0.1171	0.1177	DEM	3.6249	3.7655	3.8904	4.0468
JP Yen	0.547	0.5497	FRF	3.5313	1.5781	1.7109	1.9063
NL Guilder	0.3485	0.3503	CHF	1.4375	3.6289	3.7344	3.9375
IT Lira	0.397	0.399	ITL	5.5960	5.2280	4.9280	-

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European Cup Winners' Cup

Cosmopolitan Chelsea chase chance

PARIS (AFP) — Chelsea, with one of the most cosmopolitan line-ups in England, hope their coach's intimate knowledge of Italian football will help them overcome Vicenza on Thursday to reach the European Cup Winners' Cup final.

But the Londoners might just as well be thanking their Norwegian or Uruguayan connections for putting them in their first European final since winning the Cup Winners' Cup in 1971 when they beat Real Madrid.

Norwegian beanpole Tore Andre Flo knows there is no more he can do to convince Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli to pick him as his front-line partner for the clash with Vicenza at Stamford Bridge on Thursday.

But the biggest bonus for Vialli, who played 400 Italian league games with Cremonese, Sampdoria and Juventus, may be the return of Uruguayan midfielder

Gustavo Poyet just six months after his season seemed to be over when he snapped a cruciate knee ligament.

"Gustavo has had a very difficult time but now he has shown he is almost ready to play 90 minutes again," Vialli said. "The nightmare is finished for him and he might have an important role to play on Thursday."

I know for sure I can count on him again if I need to," His comeback could not be better timed with the suspension of Italian midfielder Roberto Di Matteo for Thursday's second leg tie.

Flo presented another irrefutable case for his inclusion among the starting line-up for Chelsea's biggest match of the season with a powerful display and a crucial breakthrough goal in the 2-0 Premiership win over Tottenham last week-end.

"If I don't see my name on the board when the team-sheet is pinned up on

Thursday I will be a bit disappointed," he said. "But I don't expect anything. It is up to the manager and all I can do is be ready to do a job for Chelsea — whatever it is that he wants."

Flo, who hammered a hat-trick against Spurs earlier this season, clinched only the third League win in eight games for Chelsea with a precise strike from Vialli's deft flick and set up the move which provided his manager with the second goal just before the end.

He now has 14 goals — just four fewer than top-scorer Vialli — in just 19 starts. They have played in partnership from the start just five times, two of those games bringing 2-0 wins. That's the score Chelsea need to overcome the 1-0 first leg defeat in Italy.

But Vialli's tendency to chop and change — against Spurs on Saturday, Vialli made seven changes for the third consecutive game since the 1-0 first leg defeat in Vicenza where Flo came

on as a substitute — makes it difficult to say who will line up on Thursday.

"I have never known a club where so many changes are made in the team from game to game — but then again I have never played for a club with so many excellent players and such a huge squad," Flo said. Gianfranco Zola and Wales striker Mark Hughes who scored the winner at Derby last Sunday, as well as midfield anchor-man Eddie Newton were all rested.

And full back Frank Sinclair is still a fitness doubt for Thursday with a groin injury. But Vialli said: "Everybody else is in good shape and I would rather have selection problems like that than be without too many players who are injured."

Vicenza coach Francesco Guidolin rates Chelsea on a par with Fiorentina with whom they drew 1-1 last Saturday. "As far as I'm concerned there is little

between Chelsea and Fiorentina so we are optimistic about successfully defending our lead in London," he said.

Lokomotiv Moscow have a similar one-goal deficit to make up against German side VfB Stuttgart in the other semi-final but the goal they scored in Germany in a 2-1 defeat means a 1-0 scoreline would qualify them on the away goals rule.

Since losing to Stuttgart Lokomotiv have lost 2-0 to UEFA Cup semi-finalists Spartak Moscow in the Russian championship and beaten Dynamo Moscow 1-0 in the Russian Cup.

Lokomotiv defender Igor Cherevchenko will not play against Stuttgart because of two yellow cards but Alexander Smirnov and Yuri Drozdov, who UEFA initially announced as suspended, have been cleared to play.

Lazio and Inter in UEFA Cup final

PARIS (AFP) — Impressive defending by Lazio against Atletico Madrid on Tuesday earned them a place in the UEFA Cup final against Inter Milan to keep Italian clubs on course for a grand slam in Europe.

Lazio drew 0-0 with Atletico in the Olympic stadium for a 1-0 aggregate win after a commanding display at the back.

And statisticians will have been drooling at the numbers thrown up by the result of this uninspired semi-final, second leg.

Lazio and Inter Milan, who earlier beat Spartak Moscow 4-2 on aggregate, will meet in the fourth all-Italian final in nine years, and the first all-Italian UEFA Cup final since Juventus against Parma in 1995.

It will also be Inter Milan's fourth UEFA Cup final in nine years following wins in 1991 and 1994 and a runner-up spot to Schalke 04 last season.

Lazio had to do without suspended Yugoslavian international Vladimir Jugovic, who scored in their 1-0 win in Spain. But Atletico had their own absentee in midfielder Jose Luis Caminero, who has scored three UEFA Cup goals this season, and defender Denia Sanchez.

Lazio's Croatian Alen Boksic, who has scored 10 goals in the Italian league this season, looked dangerous up front in the first half, but was denied a clear-cut chance.

And at the other end of the pitch Atletico's Italian international Christian Vieri also had a frustrating time.

The Lazio defence ensured Vieri, who is the top scorer in Spain with 21 goals, was unable to produce his usual clinical finishing.

Alessandro Nesta, suspended for the first leg, was particularly outstanding in the Roman club's rearguard and it was no surprise when Atletico's best chance before the break came from long range. Yugoslav Milinko Pantic tried his luck from fully 30 metres and the ball only just flew past keeper Luca Marchegiani's left-hand post.

Atletico coach Raddy Antic brought on out-and-out striker Jose Mari for left winger Lardin in the second half as Atletico urgently looked to score.

And Mari was only on five minutes when he missed easily the best chance of the match, leaving Antic with his head in his hands. Vieri fed Mari a defence-splitting pass and, with only 'keeper Marchegiani to beat, he shot wildly left-footed into the side netting.

Antic once more injected striking talent as he fielded youngster Igor Paulovic for defender Christian Diaz with a quarter hour to go. But the match petered out as a spectacle and Atletico, who managed their first corner with three minutes to go, found themselves unable to break



Brazilian striker Ronaldo (L) of Inter Milan celebrates after scoring his first goal against Spartak Moscow during their UEFA Cup semi-final second leg match (Reuters photo)

Lazio's miserly defence.

Brazilian ace Ronaldo booked Inter Milan's place in their second consecutive UEFA Cup final when he scored both goals in a 2-1 victory.

Andrei Tikhonov gave Spartak a 13th-minute lead, but Ronaldo's equaliser in a goalmouth melee levelled a game played on a field of mud and sand after all the grass had been bulldozed off

along with the snow.

That first goal made it 3-2 to Inter on aggregate and Ronaldo's second of the night, 11 minutes from full-time, put the outcome beyond all doubt as Inter advanced 4-2 on aggregate.

There was no easy victory, however, against a skilful, well-organised Russian side.

Inter were completely at sea in the opening minutes and goalkeeper Gianluca

Pagliuca did well to stop Tikhonov's barrelling shot in the eighth minute, although there was little he could do to stop Spartak going ahead soon after.

Spartak took a short corner on the right, Tikhonov ghosted into the area, dodged Argentina's Javier Zanetti and cracked an angled drive past Pagliuca a split second before Diego Simeone arrived for the tackle.

Miroslav Romasenko cracked in a searing low shot from a free-kick in the 44th minute, which Pagliuca did well to block, but seconds later he was to blame for Inter's equaliser.

Moriero chipped the ball over from the right, Romasenko poked it across the goal instead of away and it hit the leg of Gorokovitch. He failed to control it and the ball landed at the feet of Ronaldo, who instinctively lashed it home.

Victory for Inter finally came with a move which started with Luigi Sartor's throw-in and finished with Ronaldo rounding Filimonov and slotting the ball into an empty net, just he did twice in Saturday's win over AS Roma.

Italian clubs remain on course for their first grand slam of — winning the European Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup since 1990. Juventus take a 4-1 lead to Monaco in the European Cup semi-final on Wednesday and Vicenza lead 1-0 against London side Chelsea before the Cup Winners' Cup second leg in England on Thursday.

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Good Friday (17 April 1998)

12:00 noon. Passion Service and Holy Communion — De La Salle Church *

Holy Saturday (18 April 1998)

10:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Service and Mass of the Resurrection — De La Salle Church *

**All at: Frères College, Razi Street, Jabal Hussein

Easter Sunday (19 April 1998) — Mass of the Resurrection

11:00 a.m. St. Joseph Church (First Circle, Jabal Amman)

12:00 noon. Church of the Annunciation (Jabal al-Weibdeh)

6:00 p.m. De La Salle Church (Frères College, Razi Street, Jabal Hussein)

Maya Mufti to compete in Rally du Liban

By Roufan Nabhas
Special to The Jordan Times



AMMAN — A giant step awaits one of Jordan's rally drivers who will soon head to Lebanon to take part in the Rally du Liban, marking the first time a Jordanian woman competes in a national rally abroad.

Maya Mufti will make her debut on the international rally scene on May 2 partnered by Lebanese co-driver Hala Nasser Al Dein in a Nissan Pulsar.

They are expected to be the only women's team in the event covering a distance of 400 kilometres with 6 special stages around the ancient Roman seaport of Byblos.

Although Mufti has never taken part in any of the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan's (RACJ) rallies, she had her taste of speed in the Kingdom.

"I took part in the speed tests here but never in a national rally," she pointed out.

The reason for her big break was an extensive sponsorship deal from a Lebanese company.

"I was offered all the support from the International Publishers Company in Lebanon and that's why I am going to launch my rallying career from there," she said.

"If I had the support from a Jordanian company I would have started from here," she pointed out.

"I happened to visit Lebanon a lot and on my last visit I was offered the sponsorship needed for a

Jordan's Maya Mufti will be the only Jordanian competing in the Rally du Liban (file photo)

rally," she said.

That includes a fully equipped car, maintenance team, and all the expenses.

Ms Mufti pointed out that drivers need to be sponsored in their own countries.

"I am sure that if companies here have the willingness to support rally drivers, many women will be interested in this kind of sport," she added.

Ms Mufti is spending her time now reading books on rallies and training for the big event.

"I heard a lot about the difficulties I am going to face but I am looking forward to gaining the experience for future events," she said.

"One day, I hope to get such support from Jordan and be part of the RACJ rallies," she said.

Luck may still be smiling for Mufti as the national rally is just a beginning.

"If things go well in the first rally then I will be covering the whole 1998 rally season in Lebanon," she said.

Leicester draw 3-3

LONDON (AFP) — Garry Parker stotted home a penalty kick in the third minute of injury time on Tuesday night to salvage Leicester City a 3-3 home draw in their English Premiership match against Southampton.

Norwegian international striker Egil Ostenstad scored twice and looked to have guided the Saints to victory before Parker's late spot kick.

Ostenstad was on target in the 17th and 27th minutes. He put Southampton into the lead against the run of play when he stroked the ball past United States international goalkeeper Casey Keller from the edge of the box after a fine pass from Matt Le Tissier.

Leicester rallied within a minute when Irishman Neil Lennon unleashed a rocket shot inside the right post from 25 metres out, but Oostenstad then restored Southampton's advantage.

The mobile frontman scored with a fine angled header from close range after a curled cross from Jason Dodd.

John Beresford and Le Tissier then set up a goal for David Hirst to make it 3-1 just five minutes into the second half but Leicester fought back bravely.

They reduced the lead in the 52nd minute when Steve Guppy's corner was headed downwards by defender Matt Elliott and then bounced up into the net.

The home side then had several chances to draw level but found Paul Jones in inspired form in the Southampton goal until Parker's late equaliser.

Vogts still undecided on Germany squad

COLOGNE (AFP) — Berti Vogts showed he has still not made up his mind on who will represent Germany at the World Cup in France by selecting a large squad of 28 players for next Wednesday's friendly international against Nigeria in Cologne.

Three newcomers in the form of Bayern duo Carsten Jancker and Christian Nerlinger as well as Schalke defender Yves Elgenraich have been given a chance although none will be first string.

Bayern Munich's Mehmet Scholl and Steffen Freund of Borussia Dortmund have also been recalled after a long absence. Scholl is doubtful though because of an injury picked up in last Saturday's Munich derby against 1860 which has left his left ankle in a cast.

The 28-man squad will be whittled down after this week-end's Bundesliga matches with the 20-odd remainder lodging at a sports academy in Bergisch Gladbach just outside Cologne.

Vogts, who only arrived back in Germany Monday evening after a two-week holiday in the United Arab Emirates, is keeping as open a mind as he can on who he will take to the World Cup and wants to ensure that even those on the periphery of his plans get a chance to prove themselves.

Mario Basler, who is out injured, is not included in the squad and must undergo a fitness test to prove himself in the next few weeks. Libero Matthias Sammer seems a definite write-off as he can not even run yet after his series of devastating knee injuries let alone play football. Dortmund sweeper Juergen Kohler won't play against Nigeria because of a one-match suspension he picked up after a red card in last month's 1-2 against Brazil. He already has his ticket to France more or less secure however.

Dortmund defender Steffen Freund has been given a late redemption. He last appeared in a Berti Vogts squad at the Euro 96 finals in England, tearing knee ligaments in the semi-final against England. He lost a year recovering but is now back to his old form and could yet play a role in Vogts' plans because the German coach's greatest concern is his defence, traditionally a German strong point.

As pre-arranged, Andreas Koepke will step aside in goal allowing Bayern's Oliver Kahn to earn his ninth cap. Vogts will have three pre-match training sessions with his side, two in Bergisch Gladbach and one in Cologne's Mueggersdorfer stadium which is still not sold out for the game.

There will be a few familiar faces among the Nigerian team. Stuttgart striker Jonathon Akpoborie will be supported by Ajax Amsterdam's former FC Cologne midfielder Sunday Oliseh and Jay Jay Okocha who use to play for Eintracht Frankfurt. This will be the last match for Germany's players to prove themselves.

Berti Vogts plans to name his 22-man World Cup squad in about three weeks time with another five or six placed on stand by. On May 18th all nominees will go to Finland for a 10-day training camp which will include a friendly against the host nation in Helsinki on May 27.

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فنانة الأصل

Sports

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, April 16-17, 1998 11

1st Division Basketball Championship
Orthodoxi beat Ahli to top standings

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Orthodoxi Wednesday beat all-time rivals Al Ahli 84-61 to take the lead in the three-team 1st Division Basketball Championship playoffs.

Although Al Ahli held on to a 34-33 lead at halftime, their poor physical conditioning and incomplete bench were the main reasons behind their eventual defeat.

Al Ahli had also held to a 32 score against Al Jazireh to whom they eventually lost 78-63 in the first playoff match of the round event.

Al Orthodoxi consolidated their lead towards the end of the second half as Al Ahli sank in a three-quarter game in a three-quarter game followed by six consecutive points by Al Ahli, aided by Ayman Du'eis in rebounding and follow up.

Al Ahli, on the other hand, were led by Faisal

Nsour and Yousef Zaghoul as the team missed the efforts of Mohammad Shamali and Marwan Ma'touq who are both nursing injuries.

The lineup also again missed centre Ramez Hammoudh who has quit the team for personal reasons.

The team is suffering the ill-effects of inadequate pre-season training which led to an inconsistent form, after officials concentrated more on technicalities like recruiting a coach and turning back veterans to the lineup.

Wednesday's win enabled Al Orthodoxi to top the standings for now before facing titleholders Al Jazireh Saturday.

That game, in addition to winning again in the second round of the playoffs will be the deciding factor in the fight for title since the top two are tied in overall points.

After losing to the two other top teams in the pre-

liminary rounds, Al Ahli are third and their ambitions were confined to taking the runner up spot after being ruled out of contention for the title.

However, that hope has also been ruled out and it seems they will replace Al Orthodoxi in third place in the final standings.

In the preliminary round, Al Jazireh beat Al Orthodoxi 92-84 and lost 73-69. However, they managed to beat Al Ahli twice 75-69, and 57-53.

After ending Al Orthodoxi's 1976-1989 undisputed reign, Al Ahli were champions in 1990, 1992, 1993 and 1994 aided by the signing of Naser Bushnaq.

Al Orthodoxi came back to win in 1991, 1995 and 1996 and Al Jazireh ended a 30-year domination among the two rivals last season.

Kournikova, Likhovtseva out of Australian Fed Cup

PERTH (AFP) — Russian stars Anna Kournikova and Elena Likhovtseva withdrew Wednesday from this weekend's Federation Cup clash with Australia.

Tennis Australia said Kournikova had a strained stomach muscle while no reason was given for Likhovtseva's absence except that she was "unavailable."

The Russian team now consists of Tania Panova, ranked 83 in the world, Ekaterina Sysoeva, ranked 126, and the unranked Anastasia Myskina.

Australian team captain Lesley Bowrey said she was confident but wary with her squad including Rachel McQuillan ranked 60 in the world, Kerry-Anne Guse at 65, Annabel Ellwood 104 and Rennae Stubbs at 322.

"The Russians have a reputation of producing stars out of nowhere and now we have to be wary of the unknown," she said.

"We don't know what's coming or what lays ahead."

The teams meet in the first round tie on grass at Royal King's Park in Perth where Australia beat the Slovak Republic in 1995.

The Russians are expected to arrive here late Wednesday. Bowrey, whose squad is already in Perth, said the extra practice on grass could prove beneficial.

"When you are talking changing surfaces, it's more difficult to walk on to grass than any other surface," she said.

"You really need to get the hours up on grass. The more time our girls spend on the courts now, the better they'll feel on the weekend."

Chang wins, Rafter knocked out of Japan Open

TOKYO (AFP) — Tournament favourite Patrick Rafter was the biggest casualty in the Japan Open tennis Wednesday, crashing to a shock straight sets defeat as Michael Chang cruised through to the next round.

The top-seeded Australian was subjected to an array of aces and lightning service return winners by 181st-ranked American Brian MacPhie before losing 3-6, 6-7 (4/7).

"It's always tough coming to a new tournament, new conditions, new surface and to play someone like Brian. He is very aggressive and it's hard to get into rhythm. You never know what's gonna happen," said Rafter.

It was Rafter's first match this week after a busy weekend in India where he collected his third career title.

Rafter and other seven



Brian MacPhie of the U.S. raises his arms in celebration after upsetting Australian Pat Rafter in the second round of the Japan Open (Reuters photo)

on the Ariake Coliseum centre court.

"Today was actually a very big start for me," said Chang. "Looking at my career, I think it was a normal first second-round match, but today I was quite pleased with the way that things went."

"Fortunately, in my career, I haven't had to deal with these kind of major injuries before with the exception of fracturing my hip at the end of 1989, so I'm quite overjoyed that I was able to win my first match."

"My knee is not 100 per cent at the moment, but the important thing is that I'm up on the court. I'm moving better each day and on top of that, I don't feel pain," he added.

After beating Rafter, the world number four, MacPhie said: "I feel like I served pretty well. I think to beat someone like Pat, you have to serve well consistently. I think it was a big key."

"It was definitely the best win in my career. Maybe he was not at the top of his game like he has been in other tournaments, but it gives me confidence to compete at that level," added MacPhie, who fired 10 aces and seven service return winners.

It was sweet revenge for the 25-year-old American who lost his only previous meeting against Rafter in Hong Kong a year ago.



Pat Rafter of Australia makes a return to American Brian MacPhie during the second round of the Japan Open tennis tournament in Tokyo (Reuters photo)

men's top seeds received first round byes.

Second-seeded Michael Chang showed no ill effects from his knee injury as he raced to a 6-4, 6-1 victory over John van Lottum of the Netherlands.

Chang injured his left knee a month ago at Indian Wells and came back to action last week in Hong Kong where he suffered his first first-round defeat in Asia.

But the 1989 French Open champion was untroubled by the injury in his second comeback match shortly after Rafter was knocked out

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Knicks lose to Wizards

NEW YORK (AP) — The Knicks, whose protest over their controversial loss at Miami was denied before the game, missed a chance to clinch a playoff spot Tuesday by losing 104-102 to the struggling Washington Wizards.

New York failed to eliminate the Wizards from playoff contention and also blew an opportunity to move back into seventh place in the East after New Jersey lost at home to Toronto.

Tracy Murray scored 27 points as Washington snapped a three-game losing streak. The Wizards must win their final three games hope either New York or New Jersey loses the rest of its games to make the playoffs.

Allan Houston scored 23 for New York.

• Raptors 96, Nets 92: In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Doug Christie scored 13 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and Marcus Camby set a team record with 11 blocked shots as Toronto broke a 13-game losing streak.

Camby had 15 points, 12 rebounds for his first triple double as the Raptors rallied from an 11-point deficit late in the third quarter to prevent New Jersey from clinching its first playoff berth since 1994.

Keith Van Horn led New Jersey with 25 points and a career-high 16 rebounds. Kendall Gill had 23 points as the Nets' five-game winning streak was snapped.

• Hornets 104, Bucks 82: In Milwaukee, Glen Rice scored 30 points and Charlotte snapped a five-game road skid by outscoring Milwaukee 36-18 in the second quarter.

Anthony Mason had half of his 18 points in the second period, when the Hornets shot 72.7 percent (16-of-22) to take a 57-42 halftime lead.

Charlotte remained one game ahead of Atlanta for fourth place in the Eastern Conference playoffs and homecourt advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Ervin Johnson had 17

rebounds and 16 points for Milwaukee.

• Hawks 95, 76ers 94: In Atlanta, Alan Henderson scored a career-high 39 points and Mookie Blaylock's 10th steal of the game prevented a potential game-winning shot as Atlanta won its third straight.

Blaylock made his career-high 10th steal with 1.5 seconds left to preserve the win. He finished with 11 assists and 14 points and to record his second triple-double of the season. He also had eight rebounds.

Henderson was 16-for-21 from the field in surpassing his previous career-high of 27 points.

Allen Iverson led Philadelphia with 26.

• Cavaliers 95, Celtics 86: In Cleveland, Shawn Kemp had 22 points and 10 rebounds as Cleveland clinched at least sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

The victory was the Cavs' 46th of the season, four more than last year's total after changing the entire starting lineup.

Derek Anderson came off the bench to score 15 against three of his ex-teammates and former Kentucky coach Rick Pitino.

Antoine Walker led the Celtics with 31 points.

• Lakers 111, Mavericks 95: In Dallas, Shaquille O'Neal scored 34 points, 12 of them off of dunks, and the Los Angeles Lakers rolled to their 14th victory in 16 games.

O'Neal decided the game at the start of the third quarter scoring 10 points during a 21-5 run.

Michael Finley scored 23 points for the Mavericks. Robert Davis added 15.

• Rockets 94, Nuggets 88: In Houston, Mario Elie scored 23 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter, as the Houston overcame a 14-point halftime deficit to win.

Hakeem Olajuwon finished with 13 points, 18 rebounds and eight assists and Clyde Drexler had 16 to drop the Nuggets to 2-37 on the road.

LaPhonso Ellis and Cory Alexander led the Nuggets with 22 points each.

• Jazz 126, Timberwolves 109: In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone had 44 points, 14 rebounds and six assists as Utah moved ahead of Chicago in the race for home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

The victory gave Utah a 60-19 record, the same as the Bulls.

The Jazz hold the tiebreaker edge by virtue of their season sweep of the Bulls.

Malone scored 16 points in the fourth quarter after Minnesota cut a 25-point Utah first-half lead to seven.

Stephon Marbury had 25 points and 13 assists for Minnesota.

Jeff Hornacek had 20 for Utah.

• SuperSonics 110, Grizzlies 98: In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 27 points and Seattle reached the 60-win plateau for the third time in five seasons.

The Sonics stayed a half game behind Utah for the best record in the West and remained a game in front of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Hersey Hawkins scored 12 of his 15 points in the pivotal third quarter, when the Sonics fell behind momentarily and then went ahead to stay. Vin Baker added 18 points and nine rebounds for Seattle.

Vancouver, which lost its 10th straight game to the Sonics, was led by Tony Massenburg's 22 points.

• Trail Blazers 92, Kings 66: In Portland, Oregon, reserve Walt Williams scored all 19 of his points in the second quarter and Arvydas Sabonis returned to the Portland lineup with 16 points and nine rebounds.

The victory, combined with Minnesota's loss at Utah, clinched the No. 6 playoff spot in the Western Conference for Portland.

Cordell Williams scored 12 and Billy Owens 11 for Sacramento.

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Service held for Hillsborough victims

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — A special memorial service to mark the ninth anniversary of the Hillsborough stadium disaster in which 96 Liverpool fans died will be held at the club's Anfield ground on Wednesday.

Between 5,000 and 10,000 people are expected to line the terraces of "The Kop" stand to pay their respects to the supporters who lost their lives during the 1989 FA Cup semi-final

clash against Nottingham Forest.

The fans died from asphyxiation as crowds poured onto the terraces after police had opened gates into an enclosed area. They were unable to escape onto the pitch because of fencing designed to keep fans from invading the pitch.

